THE

Camellia Review

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$6.00.

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THE COVER FLOWER C. japonica "King's Ransom"

This month's cover flower is one of the two All-America Camellia Selections for 1960-1961, the other being the hybrid "Bonnie Marie" which was the cover flower of last month's CAMELLIA REVIEW. "King's Ransom" is an introduction of C. Norwood Hastie's Magnolia Gardens in South Carolina. It is a pale pink C. japonica of unknown parentage, with a definite resemblance to "Debutante". Blooms, averaging 4½ inches in size, are of loose peony form. Habit of growth is upright. Growth is more rapid than for most camellias, and both plant and flower have proved very hardy.

Color Cut Courtesy Magnolia Gardens



One of the dreaded periods in the life of an editor is the date of delivery of a new issue. Because that's when errors show up. One of the sins committed in the October CAMELLIA REVIEW was the omission of Harvey Short's "Guest of Honor" from the list of Margarete Hertrich Award winners. Many people consider this to be the best of his introductions. It should be added for 1954-55 to the list of award winners on page 6 of Flinn Dickson's article. Our apologies to Harvey Short and Flinn Dickson.

This month we are running a story that is not connected with camellias, and we are not doing it to fill up the magazine either. We believe that people who like camellias also like other flowers, and the story on the Los Angeles County Arboretum is illustrative of what we shall run from time to time on subjects other than camellias. Dr. William S. Stewart, director of the Arboretum, is doing an outstanding job in creating and developing an institution of which Southern California should be proud. It should be a "must" for all plant-loving people who live within driving distance of Arcadia, California.

Camellia society meeting time is here again. It raises the question of why we grow camellias and why we belong to camellia societies. Milo Rowell of Fresno talked to SCCS people at the December 1958 meeting on the subject "What Camellias Do For Me." The talk was reported in the January 1959 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. It's well worth reading again. It's not only the personal satisfaction that one feels after having brought a plant along, perhaps from a scion, to its fulfilment in the beautiful bloom. At least equal in importance is the pleasure derived from association with people with similar interests. And that's where the society comes in, because that is where we meet these people and get to know them. Some people attend society meetings only when they like the subject of the talk of the evening. The talks at the meetings are interesting and often instructive. The flowers are beautiful. But underlying it all are the people. That's the reason we should belong to and attend the meetings of camellia societies.

Harold Ed Gregelen

AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY CONVENTION AND ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW Disneyland, February 22-26, 1961

five days February 22nd through February 26th, 1961 will be the high water mark of the 1960-1961 camellia season in Southern California. During these five days, South-California camellia societies, represented by the Los Angeles Camellialia Council, will be host to the annual convention of the American Camellia Society. Headquarters and most of the activities of the convention will be at Disneyland. The first three days of the convention period. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, will be spent in registration, sight seeing, convention meetings and evening entertainment of guests. Activities will culminate on Saturday and Sunday with the Los Angeles Camellia Council's annual camellia show at the Disnevland Hotel.

On Thursday, the first full day of the convention, registered guests will be given a tour of the Huntington Botanical Gardens and Descanso Gardens, both of which have famous camellia collections. Box lunches will be eaten at Descanso Gardens, Thursday evening there will be a buffet supper at the Disneyland Hotel, followed by an inter-society meeting at which representatives from the different sections of the camellia world will tell about new varieties and other developments of interest in their respective areas. On Friday, the guests will have a free day, with transportation supplied by the hosts, to visit points of interest in the Los Angeles area. On Friday evening there will be a pre-dinner party at the Disneyland Hotel hosted by California camellia societies that are not members of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Saturday morning will also be a free period for guests desiring to go sight seeing. The convention banquet will be held Saturday evening.

Ken Newerf, chairman of the camellia show, and his committee are working on plans which have as their objective the biggest camellia show in the state's history. While the show will be sponsored and managed by the member societies of the Los Angeles Camellia Council (Southern California, Los Angeles, Orange, Pacific, Pomona and Temple City societies), ten California camellia societies will be cooperating to bring this about. This will be the sixth show sponsored by the Camellia Council since it was formed in 1956, incidentally, to host an American Camellia Society convention. This will be the first such show held indoors; however, all others having been held in Descanso Gardens. The indoor location will permit features and decorations that are not possible outdoors, and full advantage will be taken of this factor in setting the decor of the show.

In addition to the floral and decorative attractions, the "Camellia Wonderland" show will feature a parade of Camellia Queens (each one a winner of the Miss Universe contest in her respective area). Leader of the parade will be Miss California in the Universe contest. Another gala parade, made up of Disneyland characters led by Alice-in-Wonderland and the Disneyland band, will open the show Craig Stevens, Television's Peter Gunn, and his wife Alexis Smith, will be honored guests at the Sunday show.

Flower arrangements featuring camellias will be one of the principal attractions of the show. In addition to competitive arrangements by both amateur and profession people, for

(Continued on page 23)

HISTORY OF THE HUNTINGTON CAMELLIA GARDEN

By William Hertrich

Curator Emeritus, Huntington Botanical Gardens

On January 1, 1905 the writer of this memorandum accepted the position of Superintendent to develop the Huntington estate which embraced about 540 acres at that time. The "Ranch", as Mr. Huntington called this property, was planted to various crops such as citrus orchards, peaches, walnuts and olives, some of it was pasture land and the remainder of it was devoted to simple dry farming,

mostly oat-hay.

Mr. Huntington acquired this property about 1902. It had been known as the Shorb Ranch since James De Barth Shorb, the former owner, had resided on the property since 1878. Surrounding the Shorb residence was a small area devoted to ornamental plants among which were two small Camellia japonicas. One of these was a "Pink Perfection" while the other was an unnamed, variegated variety. About 1906 the former Shorb residence was dismantled to make room for the new Huntington mansion and the two camellia plants were transplanted to another location, north of the present Art Gallery building, known to us now as the North Vista area. These two plants are still growing in this location and they actually form the nucleus of the present camellia collection.

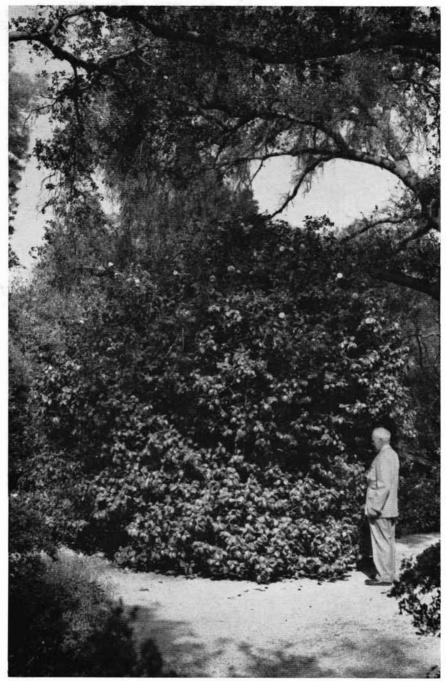
In 1908, at the time the late Henry E. Huntington began to erect his home on the estate, the writer prepared plans for the landscaping of certain areas adjacent to the proposed residence. The north section of this area lent itself ideally to a garden suited to semi-shade and full shade loving plants because of the presence of the many live-oak trees (Quercus agrifolia). Among the semi-shade loving plants which were considered

were camellias, rhododendrons, kalmias and azaleas, none of which was readily obtainable in the local market at the time. Most camellias grown in Southern California in those early days were devoted to the cut flower trade. About that time a small local nursery, which specialized in the growing of camellias for the florist trade, terminated its activity as such and disposed of its camellia plants, twenty-five of which I promptly acquired for the Huntington estate. This small acquisition of camellias was planted under the oak trees and formed the skeleton planting for what is now known as the North Vista Camellia Garden.

The actual transplanting of the camellia shrubs presented quite a little problem. They were being grown in an open, gravelly soil, too loose a composition for either burlap balling or boxing. Therefore the method of bare-root transplanting had to be used. Since the work had to be done in the mid-summer, during the very hot weather, extra shading and overhead spraying were resorted to with very good results. A certain amount of judicious pruning was practiced, also with good results.

The second addition to that small beginning of the camellia collection occurred in 1912-13 when the superintendent designed and built the Japanese Garden in the west canyon area of the estate. This garden called primarily for plant material indigenous to Japan. A search of the local nurseries revealed a shortage of suitably sized plants, although a few were obtained from Northern California. Fortunately I decided on one more look in the local area for I learned

(Continued on page-,15)



Original Camellia japonica "Pink Perfection"

This was transplanted from the Shorb residence to its present location, in the North Vista area in 1906.

when? why? how?

R. FLINN DICKSON SR.

Relocating Plants Now?

DO NOT DO IT if it is a choice plant from which you hope to get some fine flowers this season. A while back when talking about this with a group of experienced camellia growers, all were in accord with this thought. A camellia is a real rugged shrub that becomes sensitive to environmental changes during the period from bud setting through blooming. When I get a new plant or place my grafts in the growing area I try always to do it before the spring growth cycle begins. Experience is showing this to be a sound practice. So — before the next growth cycle begins, make up your mind where you want those plants that you bought and the others you got at the camellia meetings — put them there and give them good care for a year. It will pay off. Our two sons live about 30 miles from us. We have given them a number of plants over the years and in every instance the plants have performed better after the first season in a new home.

Root Stock

Have you ever planned to use a real good root stock plant for a graft and then found the container was shot with holes? What did you do? Now that we are in a sort of between-the-acts time why not get stock that needs it into good containers: then the root system will have two to three months to become settled before grafting time. I know that this action is not in line with the practice of some of our friends, but, with care it can be done without much disturbance of the root system. I have done it a good many times and have gotten good grafts on the re-canned plants when used the following February and March. I feel strongly that it is better to re-can a few months before grafting time than to have to do it a few months after the scions take off. An aside on the subject is that last July I began using some black plastic pots and thereby hope to eliminate any re-canning except when moving plants up to a larger container.

Sasanquas For Landscaping

I have not studied any of the aspects of landscaping. Your scribe plays it by ear. It is done on the basis of what we like in our yard. We do not consider them from a cut-flower angle. In our latest nomenclature book there are more than 250 of these fascinating plants listed. How many do you have? Here is something I want to suggest. In our yard we have several low spreading bushes of all sizes and shapes. They have been acquired over a ten year period and because of their graceful shapes, bearing quantities of a great variety of early blooms, we get much pleasure from them as part of our yard landscape. It is hoped that if any of our readers are not growing them, serious thought be given to doing so.

SOIL MIX FOR CAMELLIAS

We are now entering the time of year when we start to think about planting or replanting camellias. Those who grow in containers are faced with the need to upgrade some of their plants to larger containers. Perhaps some of the older ones need new soil. One well-known man in the Southern California camellia world decided a year or two ago that many of his plants needed replanting because the soil had "worn out." Even for plants grown in the ground, there are few locations where camellias can properly be planted in the natural soil. It is timely, therefore, that the subject of soil mix for camellias be reviewed.

The soil is an exceedingly intricate, dynamic system which not only must provide good anchorage and aeration for plant roots, but must also store and deliver large amounts of water to plants. It must also serve as a custodian of a dozen or more nutrient elements essential for plant growth. These requirements ordinarily are not

met in natural soils, and camellias are therefore usually grown in synthetic mixtures made up of soil (including sand if necessary), peat moss, and other ingredients as necessary and suitable to provide the desired mixture.

The incorporation of large amounts of peat moss into most normal soils improves aeration and root elongation; assures good drainage; assists in maintaining a good climate for the plant; and, through slow decomposition of the organic matter, provides a small but relatively constant and extremely important supply of nutrients to the growing plant. Good aeration is vitally important to all plants, but particularly to camellias and related plants.

Different sources of information on soil mix are available to the camellia grower. Section VIII of CAMELLIA CULTURE, edited by E. C. Tourje and published by the Southern California Camellia Society, is one such

(Continued on next page)

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source. Another source is a statement of soil mixes actually used by successful growers of camellias, by men who have demonstrated their knowledge of camellia growing by the blue ribbons they have won in camellia shows. Following are statements on soil mix by such men.

Dr. Cecil H. Eshelman Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Camellia hobbyists continually strive to improve their growing technic. The type of soil mix that is used is, no doubt, one of the most important parts of this effort. As I reflect back some fifteen years of growing camellias I can recall a number of changes that were made in soil mixes. Each change of mix was the accepted procedure at that particular time.

In recent years the trend in container culture is toward a loose mix. making use of many varied organic and inorganic materials, to bring this loose mix about. For the past year I have used a soil mix which was considerable lighter than the standard sandy loam, peat moss combination. The improvement is noticeable in the general appearance of the plants. Upon root examination I found a multitude of minute white roots which had penetrated throughout the container. In the old mix the tendency was for the roots to seek the outside edge of the soil space in an effort to find more desirable temperature conditions and improve aeration. The leaves are large, dark green and reflect exceptional vigor and health. This condition indicates that I am meeting the plants' needs in a satisfactory manner.

The greatest barrier to the growing of healthy Camellia plants is the use of a heavy non-porous soil mix. This invites an accumulation of excessive harmful soluble salts. Any mix that will not permit rapid soil leaching is inviting trouble along this line.

The soil mix that I am currently

using is as follows:

1/4 silty loam

¼ German peat

1/4 clean sand (free of clay)

½ rice hulls.

The silty loam can be secured back of the Devils Gate Dam in La Canada and Pasadena. The German peat is preferred over other types because it is said to decompose less rapidly and is said to be more coarse. The clean sand is available most any place and has a water retaining quality. Sand remains in the mix when peat and rice hulls have finally decomposed. I have tried rice hulls as an additional ingredient. They are extremely cheap, and due to their hard shells, decompose very slowly.

The following advantages are present with the use of a lighter mix as compared with conventional soil

mix:

(1) It offers excellent drainage which permits rapid and complete leaching when water is applied, thus avoiding the accumulation of soluble salts, which are toxic to the plant.

(2) This mix retains moisture, but

avoids wet feet.

- (3) The loose mix permits aeration of the soil; thereby providing a better environment for the roots' development.
- (4) This mix is well adjusted to a liquid fertilizer program. This is a preferable method of feeding, in that it is cheaper, easier to apply, and safer, if directions are followed. It can be used more frequently, thus sustaining a high nutrient level during the growing season.

(5) It is well to have a mix that can be standardized and that is re-

placeable.

(6) This mixture lessens the chance of the introduction of pathogens and soil fungus, which may occur when leaf mold is used.

R. W. Ragland

Orange, Calif.

When I started playing with camel-(Continued on next page)

lias about fifteen years ago the standard prescription for a soil mixture for container grown plants called for 1/3rd loam, 1/3rd leaf mold and 1/3rd peat moss. I was told that camellias required good drainage and that this would be accomplished by a light soil. That mixture seemed light enough but it didn't work out too well for me. By trial and error over a period of time I learned several things. First, the loam wasn't real loam because it had too much clay in it. Then some time later, I realized that leaf mold broke down too quickly, losing volume and becoming mucky. Also I learned that both loam and leaf mold were uncertain as to the amount of nutrients they contained. Thus my slowly accumulated knowledge led me to try, about ten years ago, a mixture of 1/2 sandy loam and 1/2 peat moss. This provided far better drainage than I had experienced in my early camellia years. Furthermore, since neither sand nor peat moss contain any nutrients to speak of, I was able to practice a fertilization program that gave me fairly good nutrient control.

However, for the last year or so I have become increasingly dissatisfied with the kind of sandy loam I have been able to get. It varies greatly as to sand content with the source of supply, and this makes impossible uniform fertilization treatment for all plants. Moreover, in a surprisingly

large number of cases I have not gotten good drainage, no matter how many holes there were in the bottom of the containers. I did not understand what was happening until I read from an article written by Dr. H. M. Butterfield of the University of California that "colloids in the clay tend to swell with moisture and shrink in drying, thereby causing a gummy, sticky condition." It was this kind of condition that was causing the poor drainage. I had acquired early in my camellia experience full realization that plants, like human beings, must breathe properly. It seems particularly vital to camellias that a good supply of oxygen must constantly reach the plant roots and that the carbon dioxide gas given off by these same roots must be carried away if the plant is to thrive. This is called "aeration," and I thought I was practicing it by the use of 1/2 sandy loam and 1/2 peat moss. I was on the right track but I am sure that I had not gone far enough.

Suspicion of this became a conviction when I read in the June 1960 issue of "Sunset" magazine the story of the University of California's new artificial soil for growing plants in pots, tubs and raised beds. The University mix was a blend of inorganic materials (fine sand or perlite) and organic materials (peat moss, ground bark, redwood sawdust or rice hulls).

(Continued on page 17)

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LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

by Donald I. Graf Arboretum Naturalist

Established in 1947 as an arboretum, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is becoming a world known center for plant introduction, education and research. Locally the name "Arboretum" has become synonymous with accurate gardening, horticultural, and botanical information through many classes offered to both adults and children alike.

Annually many hundreds of thousands of visitors go through the Arboretum's beautiful 127 acres. The grounds have been divided into plant sections such as African, Mediterranean, South American, and Australian (which contains the largest collection

of Acacias and Eucalyptus outside of that country). It is felt that having the grounds planted in this way makes the study of plants more interesting.

One of the sections that is attracting more and more visitors is the Herb Garden, a fine collection of medicinal and food seasoning plants arranged in a very formal pattern.

Rising above the rest of the area on the southwest corner of the grounds is a magnificent knoll. This hill covered with native Englemann Oaks makes an ideal setting for the collection of Azaleas and Rhododendrons. A section on the south side of the knoll has been set aside for economic plants and situated at the very top

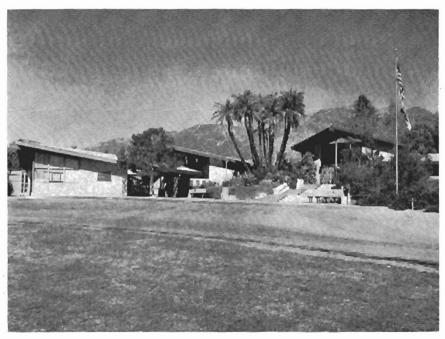


Figure 1. Arboretum Administration Building and Gatehouse. Right of center is a clump of handsome *Phoenix reclinata* palms. Sierra Madre mountains in background.

is a beautiful tropical garden featuring a fine collection of Bromeliads. Nearby stand a group of Chorisia trees whose flowers are similar in shape to the Hibiscus but are cerise in color and are in full bloom from November through January, a breathtaking sight at an otherwise dormant time of the year.

Aside from the plant sections with their interesting and exotic trees, shrubs, and flowers, the Arboretum contains a wealth of history. Having been the center of the once famous "Mission Rancho rancho Santa Anita", this Rancho covered over 13,000 acres. The first private owner was Hugo Reid, a Scotsman who fell in love with both the Rancho and an Indian Princess of the Mission, After their marriage they constructed a beautiful adobe home next to one of the few natural lakes found in the San Gabriel Valley, This fine home has now been completely restored and looks as it did when it was first erected over 120 years ago.

Since Hugo Reid's time the property has had many owners. The last was the most famous — Elias Jackson (Lucky) Baldwin, Mr. Baldwin was a very wealthy person in the late 1800's, having made most of his money by investing in mining stock. The Comstock Lode at Virginia City was his main interest. Baldwin left two fine buildings on the property: the charming "Queen Anne Cottage" which has been re-furnished with rare old antiques of the Victorian period and a very beautiful Coach Barn lavishly constructed to house Baldwin's prize carriages and carriage horses. All three buildings can be viewed daily.

A feature of the Arboretum that is unique is a guided tour of the grounds

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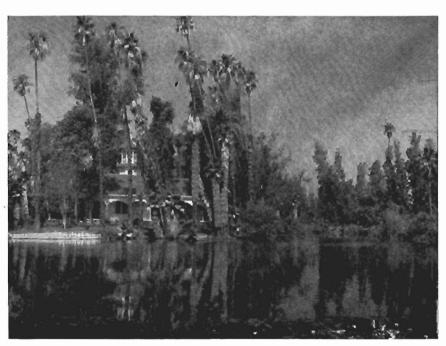


Figure 2. The restored and refurnished "Queen Anne Cottage" as seen across the lagoon at the Arboretum. This was E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin's guest house. The towering palms, tallest in the United States, are the Mexican Fan Palm (Washingtonia robusta).

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MIX — THE NEW ARTIFICIAL SOIL

Of interest to camellia growers and particularly to people who specialize in container grown plants is the story of the new University of California soil mix. Some years ago the Department of Plant Pathology of the University of California in Los Angeles, alarmed by the spread of root damaging diseases and nematodes, decided to do something about them in nursery operations. It set out to perfect a complete growing system that would not only produce disease-free plants, but would do it more economically than any existing system. They sought a soil mix that not only would provide optimum growth for plants but also one that could be duplicated exactly, time after time. It had to be made up of materials of known and unchanging quality, readily available everywhere without complicated pre-treatment.

Innumerable combinations were tested. For several years the mix was standardized at seven parts sandy loam and three parts peat moss. The trouble with this mix was that sandy loam could not be standardized. In 1950 the present U. C. Mix formulas were developed, and by 1953 the U. C. System, or adaptations of it, were under widespread trial by growers of many kinds of nursery stock. Today in the West, nurserymen are growing millions of bedding plants and foliage

plants, and hundreds of thousands of shrubs and trees in a U. C. Mix. The benefits in speeding up plant growth and avoiding losses through disease have been so outstanding that the System is attracting national and international attention.

The U. C. Mix itself is just one part of the total nursery program developed by the University. It is the revolutionary part, however, as far as the gardner is concerned. The mix is a blend of inorganic materials (fine sand, perlite) and organic materials (peat moss, ground bark, redwood sawdust). Five mixes are discussed in the guidebook for the System (U. C. Manual 23):

Mix A: 100% fine sand

Mix B: 75% fine sand 25% peat moss, sawdust, or ground bark

Mix C: 50% fine sand 50% peat moss, sawdust, or ground bark

Mix D: 25% fine sand 75% peat moss, sawdust, or ground bark

Mix E: 100% peat moss, sawdust, or ground bark

Experience has shown that for a majority of plants, Mix C (50% inorganic, 50% organic) is near perfect. It is being used by growers of ferns, African violets, citrus, conifers,

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annuals, perennials, roses. Disneyland uses a 60% sawdust-40% sandy soil mix in all planting beds of annuals. Mix B (75% inorganic, 25% organic) is preferred by growers of cacti and succulents. Mix D (25% inorganic and 75% organic) and Mix E (100% organic) are used by growers of citrus, camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas, gardenias, daphnes.

Fine sand is one step up from silt. It is used because it does not obstruct aeration as does silt or clay. It also holds moisture better than coarse sand. Furthermore, it does not fall away from roots in transplanting, and blends perfectly with the finely ground peat moss or bark. In areas where fine sand is hard to find, perlite can be substituted for the fine sand. Perlite is available in the West under various trade names and in a variety of particle sizes. Fine grades are recommended to substitute for fine sand. The perlite particles need not be as small as those of fine sand, because the particles themselves are porous.

Commercial growers following the U. C. System use, for the organic portion, peat moss, or ground bark, or redwood sawdust, or redwood shavings, or rice hulls, or combinations of two or more. The choice most often is based on availability and price. Ground bark has proved itself the near equal to peat moss in many respects. Sawmills in California, Oregon

and Washington are now grinding bark in three grades — finely ground for soil mix, medium ground for mulching, and coarse ground for playgrounds. Rice hulls, if one is in the rice country, are inexpensive compared with the others. They also are easier to use when mixed with ground bark or peat moss.

Both leaf mold and manures are ruled out on several counts. They vary greatly by source of supply. They are likely to contain excess salts. They break down readily, losing volume and becoming mucky when decomposed. They contain an unknown amount of nutrients, and they carry unknown weed seeds, pests and diseases. In contrast, the recommended organic materials contain no excess salts and maintain good drainage and good aeration over an extended period of time.

Perhaps the important advantage of the U. C. Mix over most garden soils is in its improved aeration. One cannot have vigorous top growth without vigorous root growth. And root growth requires good aeration — a constant supply of oxygen and a constant removal of carbon dioxide. The U. C. Mix can scarcely be waterlogged. Because it is highly permeable and drains quickly, the amount of oxygen is always higher than in heavy soils that drain slowly.

As previously stated, the mix is (Continued on page 17)

California Redwood Plant Tubs

There is more fun in gardening — better results, too, when you can control the soil, shade and water conditions. Doubling in duty and decoration.

Octagonal tubs from 12 to 24 inches — Square tubs from 8 to 16 inches. Designed and made especially for camellias and azaleas.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY

SCCS will hold the first meeting of the season on the second Tuesday, November 8th, at the usual place, the San Marino Women's Club. As this will be election day, and everyone will be interested in the outcome, President Al Dekker promises 2 things: (1) the meeting will be adjourned promptly on time; (2) he will have some one on hand to give significant early election results as they come in. In addition to the usual flower display, social period and plant sale, Harold Dryden will talk on the history of Awards — Hertrich, Ilges, etc., and Julius Nuccio will talk on Sasanquas.

President Dekker announces the following committee chairmen appoint-

ments for the year 1960-1961.

Program	Frank Storment
Public Address System	Walter Scott
Hospitality	
Huntington Gardens	Dr. John Taylor
Publicity	Paul Dennison
Hertrich Awards	Flinn Dickson
Nomenclature Publication	Bill Woodroof
Flower Placement	Wilber Foss
Ticket Sales	Bill Goertz
Plant Procurement	Al Gunn
Commercial Exhibits	Les Marshall
Refreshments	Lester Harrell

ORANGE COUNTY SOCIETY

Leading off the parade of Southern California Camellia Society meetings for the 1960-61 season, Orange County Camellia Society opened at a new location on Thursday, October 13. The site is the beautiful new Orange County Library building at Eighth and Ross Streets, Santa Ana. This is in the complex of new county buildings which have recently been completed.

In an endeavor to present new ideas in programs, O.C.C.S. has lined up an intriguing series for the coming season. The well-known defender of "big, red flowers," Bill Woodroof, guest speaker of the first meeting, selected as his subject, "Building a Collection — Five or Five Hundred." In addition, Bill briefed us on some of the outstanding new introductions.

"You can't have 'em all, so why not have only the best," said Bill.

Next meeting, November 10, will present Doug Thompson speaking on "Flowers to be Proud of — A Year-'Round Operation." A special invitation is extended to all societies to visit us on the second Thursday of each month.

(Continued on page 24)

HUNTINGTON CAMELLIA GARDEN (Continued)

of a commercial Japanese Tea Garden which was about to terminate its activity as such and was planning on disposing of its property. I forwarded this information to Mr. Huntington in New York and he alerted his Los Angeles agents that they were to acquire this property, if at all possible, complete with its plants, garden ornaments, bridges and the lovely, authentic tea-house. Fortunately this was done promptly and at once we proceeded to move the garden, intact with its varied decorations, to the estate.

This area was designed to give pleasure to the Huntington family when its members were in residence in San Marino. Furthermore the whole of it formed part of the landscape scheme and served to provide a background for the grouping of oriental shrubs and small trees among which camellias now predominate. For there were both Camellia japonicas and Camellia sasanguas in this Pasadena collection. All of these were planted in or adjacent to the Japanese Garden and they actually formed the nucleus of the vast camellia collection as it appears today in the canyon area.

We had now established two areas for the planting of camellias; one a flat plot of ground with light, porous soil known as the North Vista; the other a canyon site of sloping ground, facing east and west, with rather firm soil. We now had an opportunity to observe the behavior of these plants under various conditions of exposure and type of soil.

In 1918 the Huntington estate received, after considerable delay, a consignment of plants from the Yokohama Nursery Company, in Japan. Included in this shipment were a number of Camellia japonicas which augmented our camellia collection immeasurably, particularly in the North Vista section. About this time too interest in camellia culture began to grow in Southern California, particularly in the nursery trade handled by the Japanese. So from then on modest additions were made, from time to time, and by 1942 about one hundred cultivars were planted out along the canyon slopes north of the Japanese Garden. under the overhanging branches of the California live-oaks. There was similar planting done in the North Vista under like protection.

In between these years camellia seed was carefully saved and planted, thereby providing suitable understock for the grafting of new and interesting cultivars as they became available. This has proven an excellent investment since some of the earliest grafts are now sturdy plants of ten to fifteen feet in height. Steady additions from 1942 to the present day have increased the collection to about fifteen

(Continued on next page)

MARSHALL'S CAMELLIA NURSERY

(At the sign of the Camellia)

SPECIALIZING IN CAMELLIAS AND AZALEAS

AARON'S RUBY ANGEL BONNIE MARIE CLARISE CARLTON KING'S RANSOM KRAMER'S SUPREME MARGARET SHORT MATHOTIANA SUPREME MRS. D. W. DAVIS ONETIA HOLLAND SPARKLING BURGUNDY TOMORROW

Reticulatas - Sasanquas

1960 Camellia and Azalea list on request

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ATlantic 6-0452

HUNTINGTON (Continued)

hundred cultivars, with many species represented as well — all of which are planted over an area of about ten acres. Since each of the various cultivars have particular flowering habits, and with the collection numbering over a thousand different varieties, the flowering period in the aggregate covers about six months of the year and many good flowers can be expected from October to May.

Propagation of camellia plants in the Huntington Gardens, for the past twenty years or so, has been by the method of grafting, mostly cleft grafting although a little bark grafting took place in 1942. Thirty or forty years ago, before there was available understock, a certain number of plants were propagated by the method.

The Huntington Gardens are located about twenty-five miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and are comparatively well situated to derive the benefit from the cooling trade winds and are seldom affected by the dry winds which originate in the interior desert region.

The Huntington Camellia Garden is still most interested in augmenting its fine collection of cultivars and species and welcomes scions of new

and interesting types.

Doug Thompson Will Speak At **Horticultural Congress**

Douglas G. Thompson, president of Pacific Camellia Society, will be one of the principal speakers at the 15th Annual American Horticultural Congress which will be held November 10-12 at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena. This year's theme will be "The Pacific Coast's Contribution to Horticulture." Three major talks will be given during Thursday morning's session by Howard S. Bod-

ger of Bodger Seeds, Ltd., Thompson, and Philip E. Chandler, Horticultural Consultant, speaking on seed, camellias and pot plants respectively. The luncheon speaker, Landscape Architect Peggy Sullivan, will talk on "Coastal Gardens — Roots in Mexico and the Orient." Thursday afternoon will be devoted to a tour of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Friday, November 11th will be spent at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, where subjects will include "The History of Horticultural Explorations on the Pacific Coast," "The Challenge of Teaching an Applied Program in Horticulture," "The University's Contributions to Horticulture" and "Pacific Coast Horticulture — Big Business Today." The final morning will be devoted to a tour of nurseries in the area.

BOOKS FOR SALE

The secretary of Southern California Camellia Society has for sale several books that are worth owning by people who are interested in camellias. These books may be obtained by calling or writing the secretary or, better still, at Society meetings. The books are:

Camellia Nomenclature — 1960 edition, \$1.75 postpaid; in lots of 12 or more, \$1.20.

Camellia Culture — A complete publication on camellia culture. \$11.50.

Camellia Bulletin — Special edition on Rare Species and Hybrids, \$1.00.

Nomenclature of Sasangua of Japan and Camellia Varieties in Japan — both printed in Japan, 50ϕ each.

How to Grow Camellias — published by Sunset. \$1.75.

Camellias Illustrated,— Morrie Sharp, \$5.00.

SOIL MIX (Continued)

Recommended for camellias is "Mix 'D'" which is 25% inorganic and 75% organic materials. I have begun to use a mix consisting of 25% fine sand, 25% ground fir bark, 25% peat moss and 25% rice hulls. Fine sand, which is one step up from silt. is called for because it does not obstruct aeration as does silt or clay. At the same time it holds moisture better than coarse sand. Furthermore, it blends perfectly with the finely ground peat moss or bark. Sand and peat moss are not fertile and are in the University of California mix for that reason. One must start with no nutrients at all and add fertilizer materials. Only in this way can fertilizer control be established. The objective is to give the plant the nutrients it needs in the amount and at the time it needs them. One should not use this University of California mix without knowing the proper kinds and amounts of fertilizers to use with it.

There comes a time when a camellia out-grows a container and then, like other trees, it should be where nature intended a tree to be — in the earth. I believe, however, that a camellia plant will thrive in the University of California mix, with proper fertilization, in all containers up to the size of a tub 21" in diameter.

U. C. SOIL MIX (Continued)

just one part of the U. C. System. The fertilizing program is an essential part of the System. Sand and peat moss are infertile and are in the Mix for that purpose, because the essence of the System is to start with no nutrients at all and to add fertilizer materials. Only in this way can fertilizer control be established. The objective is to give the plant the nutrients it needs in the amount and at the time it needs them. The subject of fertilizing is covered in detail in Manual 23.

For obvious reasons, this article

has covered only the bare outline of the subject of soil mix, and has only referred to the fertilizing part of the program. Other parts of the U. C. System (as previously stated, it was developed for nurseries) are concerned with diseases, treatment of soil to free it of parasitic micro-organisms, using only healthy planting stock, and practicing reasonable sanitation. The research-minded gardener will find it worth the careful study it requires. Needless to say, no one would embark on any part of the program without such careful study. The name of the 332-page Manual is "The U. C. System for Producing Healthy Container-Grown Plants — Manual 23." Copies are available for \$1 from: Agricultural Publications, University Hall, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

It is a common practice to place gravel or sand in the bottom of a planting hole to "assure good drainage." This practice does not help drainage at all. On the contrary, it hinders drainage. Water will not enter a layer of sand or gravel until the soil above it is saturated. In brief, a sand layer occurring in finer-textured soil produces an effect equivalent to having a temporary water table at the point where the sand layer exists. Soil within about a foot of the water table is, of course, very wet. A very thin layer of sand in a fine-textured soil can act as a barrier to the movement of water.*

*Quoted from page 338 of CAMELLIA CULTURE, in chapter written by Dr. O. R. Lunt of U. C. L. A.

Birmingham Show

Frank Lynch, secretary of the Men's Camellia Society of Birmingham, Alabama, announces that their annual show will be held February 4 and 5, 1961. It will be staged jointly by the Men's Camellia Society and the Bessemer Men's Camellia Society.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH FOR SASANQUAS

November is the month to think about sasanguas. The average camellia collector, or the person who doesn't have enough plants to consider himself a collector, usually has himself attuned at this time to the things he must do with his camellias to get them ready for show time or for the garden beauty that causes him to grow them. While there is an increasing trend toward plant and foliage consciousness, the big consideration in most of our thinking is still the bloom. And this thinking does not lead naturally to sasanguas because sasangua blooms are not yet in the same league with japonicas and reticulatas in the minds of most bloom conscious people.

This does not mean that the sasanqua bloom is not beautiful or is without merit. It is the first bloom of the camellia season and fills in what might otherwise be a near-blank in garden color. The colors and their combinations are such as we would hope for in japonicas and reticulatas. Who would not preen with pride if he were to come forth with a japonica with the colors of "Charmer"? Some of the new doubles have a beauty within the flowers themselves that permits them to stand on their own merits.

The reason, however, that people should be thinking now about sasanquas is because of their unsurpassed place in the potential landscaping plans of so many people under so many different circumstances. The foliage is always green and shiny. The leaves are small, and blend well with other foliage. The plants are generally willowy and can be trained about any way a person wants, provided, of course, the proper variety is selected for the purpose intended. And with all these advantages, we have the color of the blossoms during the blooming season.

Among its uses in the garden are

the following:

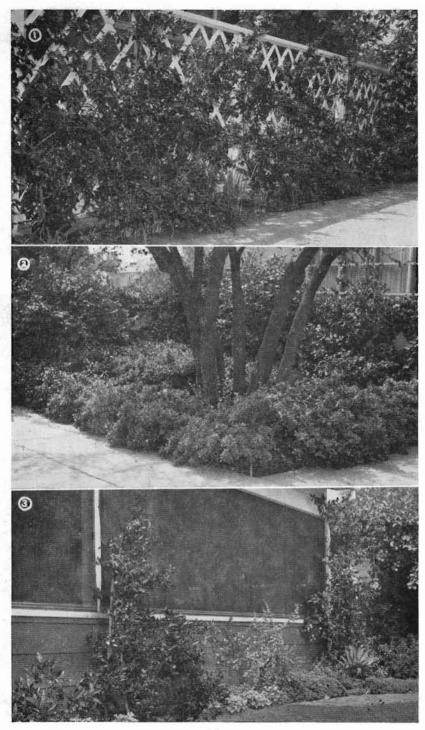
- 1. On a fence or wall. Here the trailing characteristics are put to their full advantage. The picture accompanying this article (fig. 1) shows use of sasanquas on a lattice fence that separates service yards of adjoining homes. The neighbor has also planted sasanquas and the result is a beautiful yard separation, accented during the blooming season by the colorful flowers.
- 2. As a ground covering. They are good by themselves or can be used with other plants such as azaleas. The accompanying picture (fig. 2) shows sasanquas used with azaleas under a tree.
- 3. For specimen plants as pillars. Varieties for pillar use should be those that will grow tall and compact, with a minimum of special attention. The picture (fig. 3) shows Pale Moonlight and Hana-Jiman growing as pillars at the posts of a screen porch. Other suitable varieties are Cleopatra, Shinonome, Elfin Rose, Bill Wylam, Pink Satin and Little Gem.

4. For low growing shrubs. The sprawling characteristics of most sasanquas limit their use for this purpose without lots of special attention. Varieties such as Tanya and Moon Moth are good for low growing specimen plants.

Billie McCaskill is getting a lot of fun in using sasanquas for bonsai. Anyone who is interested in this should call on her and listen to her enthusiasm. Among varieties suitable for bonsai are Bonsai Baby, Rosy Mist and Moon Moth.

Flower arrangers find that sasanquas are invaluable in their arrangement work. The branches have graceful lines to begin with and can be shaped as desired. They provide a good transition between heavy foliage and what the arrangers call fussy

(Continued on page 24)



WHAT DO WE WANT IN NEW CAMELLIA SEEDLINGS?

By Harvey F. Short

Harvey Short wrote this story for the November 1950 CAMELLIA RE-VIEW. The ten intervening years have not changed the basic points of the story, so we asked him to bring it up to date. He deleted nothing but added several sentences. So that all may know what he wrote ten years ago and what he has added in 1960, the additions are set in bold face type.

--ED.

Seedlings! — Almost a "by-word" in the camellia world today!

Peek into the backyards of enthusiasts and find tucked here and there, lush, vigorous plants in flats, quart cans, gallon cans to tub specimens, and upon inquiry you find those "good looking babies" are seedlings!

Amble into many of the commercial growers "hunting grounds" and here, too, you find the place literally bulging with plants in all the odd corners or wherever shade may offer its defense from the summer scorch of sun. Not much prodding until the secret is out, Seedlings! Seedlings!

What is all this leading to; why are we giving so much of our time and attention to this phase of camellia culture? When checking flower form, color, type of growth and time of flowering of the many hundreds of beautiful camellias that have passed in parade for our approval, what is there yet that we are seeking that we do not already have?

Interesting is the fact that we never quite attain the point of perfection we are seeking whether it be in the vegetable, floral or livestock kingdom. Thus it appears in our camellia collections that we are ever eager to check on that new "star" that appears on the horizon.

What is it we hope to emulate in

the new model? We find we may have perfection of flower, but possibly the foliage is not attractive, or the habit of growth not to our liking. Again the plant and flower may have everything — form and excellent color, but is inclined to bring its bloom at too late a date, hence warm weather often mars the best performance.

Definitely certain varieties are inclined to open poorly or "ball" in certain climatic conditions, — so always the goal of finding types that are "fool-proof" are what we seek.

The percentage of early flowering varieties is one we can increase. Particularly the florists are anxious for the flowers that appear at Christmas and New Year.

Is it too much to seek a large flower of Lotus type, with a pink or red margination and with a neat compact growth as "Lady Van Sittart"? This has been accomplished indirectly in the lovely mutation "Betty Sheffield Supreme" from the original seedling "Betty Sheffield." Somewhat similar effect is demonstrated in the new seedling "Ballet Dancer" now being released. How about a large flower of the same type as above mentioned, with the rich black red coloring of the diminutive Kuro-Tsubaki.

The desire to emphasize the yellow tone is truly a definite break that could sweep in a complete cycle of new interest. A few seedlings appearing with a rich cream cast are being crossed to flowers showing the yellow pink (coral) or the orange red, with fond hopes of startling results. Some definite response may be successful in the long range program of hybrids resulting from as yet untried crosses

with such species as the Teucherias or similar species still in the heart of China.

Much could happen in line of color (not yet too interesting) in the bluish or purple tones, by clearing or deepening the tones now found in "Purple Dawn", "Roosevelt Blues", and "Princess Layendar".

Fragrance, too, can well drive us to a long and determined effort to have enough spiced or perfumed ones to satisfy the desires of the fanciers who "like it that way" for their corsages.

Is there not also a real need for a very compact, rich foliaged plant that has the habit of flowering as freely as an Azalea shrub, with one wild burst of color? Not a large flower necessarily, but rich red, pink or white; some early, some late? How many such types can you readily name as filling the need in that special field? Here we find already several hybrid seedlings, - Saluenensis x Reticulata — Saluenensis x Japonica — that fulfil this requirement to perfection - beautiful shrubs and mass bloom, and added beauty in the most delicate colors.

Exciting large singles in all the tints and colors will find an ever increasing following, when the florist finds the charm in a wedding bouquet which can as well come from large snowy camellia blooms as from the much used Calla Lily or even the White Orchid. For home decoration, the simplicity of the single flowers for Christmas arrangements with rich waxy reds or pure whites are surely unexcelled to create the spirit of the holiday season.

Again, the type of foliage can swing the pendulum to great variations. The usual average leaf of the camellia is handsome, but an accent of bold, magnolia-like leaves with their edges smooth, wavy or deeply serrated, gives an entirely new appearance as a shrub. Some species are very dominant with this characteristic. The varieties "Masterpiece". "Coronation" and "Drama Girl" demonstrate this clearly. Long slender leaves of black-green, new foliage of mahogany red, lend a surprising and stunning effect as a shrub only; also the deeply serrated or "holly-like" appearance are already newcomers.

The avalanche or "snowballing" of the many varieties that seem to be rolling our way will be most confusing to the collector, but with some patience and testing, many of these beauties will add charm and beauty to your garden — as the time proven Elegans, Herme and Alba Plena can well attest. Yet, there still remains the irresistable urge to have something new, something different. Hence, more seedlings!

No Camellia Wind Damage on Gulf Coast

According to Hoyt W. Lee of Mobile, Alabama, former president of the American Camellia Society, September storms along the Gulf Coast did little or no damage to camellias. Mr. Lee wrote, "I have been in touch with the boys along the lower Coast, west of Alabama and find there was no damage except in some isolated cases due to falling limbs but this was negligible. The wind velocity did not exceed fifty miles per hour, although much heavier winds were expected. In our immediate section, we had no trouble whatsoever. The plants, and I am speaking of outside grown, are in excellent condition and we have promise of a fine blooming season."

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GROWING SEEDLINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Mildred Pitkin says that one of the pleasures of being secretary of SCCS is the receipt of letters from SCCS members that tell what others are doing with their camellia hobby. Mrs. Fred Neece of High Point, N. C., who is one of the regular purchasers of seeds from the Huntington Botanical Gardens, writes as follows about her seedlings activities:

"I have a four foot high cement ledge in my basement. It is three feet wide and five feet long. Over it I had installed a fluorescent light twentyfour inches long with one day light tube and one cool light tube. It is about two and a half or three feet above the ledge. I burn this light ten or twelve hours a day all winter. The temperature stays between sixty-five and seventy-five in this part of the basement. Of course I start them in a jar in damp peat moss and pinch off the tap root before I plant them in a coca-cola flat with two parts sand and one part peat moss. I did not fertilize them and by spring some were twelve inches high, green and healthy.

"The ones I ordered in the fall of 1958 were, of course, potted the following spring, kept in the yard in the summer, then in the camellia house last winter when it was cold. This summer along with the ones I grew last winter, they have been outside. I fed them early with a dry fertilizer and then every three weeks with Ortho-Gro as a foliage spray. They have grown like mad. Last week I had another part of my basement partitioned off and four feet long fluorescent lights installed on pulleys. I plan to put all the seedlings in that room this winter where they will be warm, and continue to feed them during the winter and use the lights in the daytime.

FIRST CAMELLIA SHOW IN NEW ZEALAND

The Editor of CAMELLIA RE-VIEW has received reports from three people of New Zealand's first all-camellia show, which was held in August 1960 at Hawera. A first in anything is newsworthy, but it is particularly so when it involves a camellia show. The following is a composite of the information supplied by these people.*

The show was sponsored by the South Taranaki branch of the New Zealand Camellia Society. Though Hawara is only a small country town with about 7,000 inhabitants, over 2,500 paid for admission besides members of the Society who came in free. Members from all over New Zealand attended.

As reported to Marjorie Washburne by Ben F. Rayner of Cardiff, Stratford, New Zealand, "I am still amazed at the number and quality of blooms. the crowds that attended, the vast number of people who were buying plants from the two trade stands and the enthusiasts who travelled long distances to attend. As one entered the foyer, it was to be greeted with large plants of camellia in tubs, which looked very attractive. On the left was a small room with three floral carpets composed of thousands of blooms, while the walls were decorated with floral shadow boxes, all with camellias as the main theme. In the main hall, which would be about 200 feet by 60 feet, the outside of the area was filled with the above-mentioned trade stands, floral courts, and decorative work. The centre was filled with tables and tables of lovely blooms with one table featuring old camellia varieties, all the blooms had to off trees sixty years of age and over."

* Thanks to Mrs. Ralph Peer of Hollywood, Edwards H. Metcalf of San Marino and Marjorie Washburne of Port Arthur, Texas, for supplying newspaper clippings and excerpts from letters on this subject. Two trophies presented by Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Clark of Auckland were on display at the show. They are to be awarded annually for New Zealand varieties, one for reticulata or hybrid, the other for japonica, a condition being the plant be described in the society's bulletin before its exhibition.

As reported in last month's CA-MELLIA REVIEW, the New Zealand Society at its annual meeting held in conjunction with the camellia show, agreed to institute an annual "Ralph Peer Memorial Lecture." Funds will be set aside to have a New Zealand or overseas authority lecture the society at its annual meeting each year. "Mr. Peer," the New Zealand Society president, Colonel T. Durrant, said, 'was without doubt the leading camellia personality in the world, whose enthusiasm was directly responsible for the formation of the New Zealand society."

A.C.S. CONVENTION (Cont'd)

which trophies will be provided, noncompetitive group exhibits of arrangements will be entered by four professional flower-arranging groups in the Los Angeles area. These groups are: The Flower Arrangements Guild of Southern California, the Floral Designers, the Posy Wranglers, and Las Artistas de Flores del Valle de San Gabriel. This will be the first time that all of these groups have entered such exhibits in any Southern California flower show.

Full details of the show and the convention will be supplied at meetings of all Southern California camellia societies. Price of admission to the show will be \$1.00, with all admission tickets entitling the holder to a chance on a fully-equipped 1961 Plymouth station wagon. Show tickets will be on sale at nurseries, florists and hotels in the Southern California area as well as at camellia society meetings.

ARBORETUM (Continued)

on a jeep-drawn tram with a skilled Naturalist Guide as the driver. The Guide explains the goals and future plans of the Arboretum, as well as the most interesting plants. The tours are arranged so that the visitor has the opportunity of spending as much time as he wishes in any portion of the plantings.

The Home Demonstration Gardens, adjacent to the Administration Building provide another opportunity for self education. They present "take home" ideas regarding new plants for Southern California home owners, as well as new ideas for garden and patio structures.

The Arboretum is open daily from 9:00 A.M. to dusk. Guided tours are offered from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. seven days a week. It is located at 301 No. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Phone Hillcrest 6-8251 or MUrray 1-5277 for further information regarding classes for adults or children, or tour schedules.

SASANQUAS (Continued)

foliage. The leaves are small, shiny and dark and have good lasting qualities. And the flowers will last when picked in bud stage when the bud shows color but has not yet opened.

So, even though sasanguas blooms may not compete with "Tomorrow", "Lady in Red" or "Guilio Nuccio", they have as definite a place in the garden as have japonicas. It's largely a matter of deciding where to plant them, then going to a nursery that has a wide choice in sasanguas and selecting the varieties that will accomplish the desired purpose. That's why November is the time to think about sasanguas because they are blooming now and the gardner can choose the flower he likes best as well as the variety that has the proper growing characteristics.

NEWS OF SOCIETIES (Cont'd)

Temple City Society

The Temple City Camellia Society is off to a good start this year—thanks to all the Camellia societies and friends who helped make our annual "Kick-off Breakfast" a huge success.

We are looking forward to seeing our many friends and to making new friends this coming year. We are sure that you will find the sharing of new information about camellias, the fellowship with interesting people, and the growth of your own interest in camellias a most rewarding experience. Won't you join us?

The Temple City Camellia Society meets the fourth Monday of each month — October through April at 7:30 P.M. Meeting place — Temple City Woman's Clubhouse.

Mr. Komai, of the Komai Bonsai Nursery, gave an interesting talk on how to bonsai plants at the October meeting.

The November meeting promises to be equally as interesting.

Where else than in "Camellia Culture" will one find a book on camellias that has been written by 55 of the country's outstanding growers and researchers who have joined forces to give you the most up-to-date, comprehensive volume ever written on the culture of this favorite flower!

"Camellia Culture" contains the latest information on such topics as landscape design, planting, care, shipping, propagation, breeding, diseases and pests and their control.

Attendance at a camellia society meeting adds to the pleasures of growing camellias. Nowhere else does one find a group of people with similar interests and all anxious to talk about these interests.

Directory of Affiliated Societies

Camellia Society of Kern County	
Camellia Society of Orange County	
Central California Camellia Society	
Huntington Camellia Garden	
Pomona Valley Camellia Society	
San Diego Camellia Society	
Temple City Camellia Society Temple City President: Peter P. Folino; Secretary: Mae Franklin, 9151 E. Wooley St., Temple City. Meetings held 4th Monday of the month, October through April, at Women's Club Auditorium, Woodruff at Kaufman, Temple City.	

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