

The Midsummer Edition

Summer Culture of Camellias

By DAVID COOK

Now that the long hot summer days are with us, protection of the root system of your Camellias becomes increasingly important—to maintain a uniform moisture condition it will be necessary to renew or apply a mulch of peat moss, leaf mold, bean straw, pine needles, or whatever your favorite mulching material may be. Wind and water will probably have succeeded in carrying away the biggest portion of the mulch you last applied.

Feeder roots of Camellias are very close to the soil surface, and they extend to an area equal to or greater than the extreme spread of the branches, so, maintain a mulch at least one inch deep over this area. In the long run, it will pay off to mulch out even further than this, by as much as one third more. If you use peat moss be sure that it has been thoroughly moistened. It will be wise to keep a tub or bin filled with wet peat so that you need never have to depend on wetting the moss after a gardening operation, a most difficult feat. Flower buds are formed on the first cycle of growth (some varieties may form flower buds on both the first and second cycle) and these buds will not produce a good crop of bloom unless the roots of the plants are kept as cool and uniformly moist as they are when properly mulched.

With the much applied you may once again prepare for the summer feeding. There are so many different and acceptable fertilizers for Camellias I hesitate to recommend one more highly than another. Which ever food you decide to use, be sure to follow the manufacturers directions carefully. If anything, be a little bit stingier than the manufacturer recommends, work the food in very lightly, and water it in immediately. I personally prefer a liquid fertilizer for this late feeding, as it is quickly available and thereby reduces the chances of production of a vigorous growth that may come along so late in the season

the plant will be tender as the first frosts arrive.

Insect pests should be pretty well under control at this time if you have been following any sort of schedule of spraying. Ants are very active, and their presence often will be the first indication of other pests. Control of ants therefore is important, as they will lug plant lice and scale from one part of the garden to another. There are numerous good products on the market for combating these little nuisances, ask your Nurseryman. Inspect closely any camellias the ants are busy with, and the chances are very good that aphids or scale are the feature attraction.

If you still have a few persistent aphids get out the sprayer and work them over. A good spray for aphid control is a nicotine sulphate combined with a light emulsifiable oil. A spray containing pyrethrum which may be combined with an oil spreader will also be suitable. In any wetting or spraying operation on Camellias, be sure to select a day when the temperature is not likely to exceed 80 degrees, or wait until the late afternoon, to reduce the possibility of burning.

It is not likely caterpillars will cause any further damage now that the foliage has toughened up a bit, but in the event you observe any fresh work it may be necessary to hit those areas not previously covered with a good stomach poison. A Cryocide dust will be very satisfactory as the residue does not stain the foliage for as long a period as does Arsenate of Lead. Add a tablespoon of oil spreader per gallon to the Cryocide to get good coverage.

Be sure your plants are free of scale. Examine them carefully, paying particular attention to the undersides of the foliage and the leaf joints. At this time of year the young scale are hatching and at this stage in their

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Summer Culture of Camellias

development, while they are in the soft shell, they are not difficult to eradicate. A good nicotine and oil spray will get results if applied about three or four times between now and October or November, or at monthly intervals. Be sure to select a cool day or wait until late in the afternoon, and in spraying be sure to get the material well distributed over the entire plant, paying particular attention to the undersides of the foliage.

I have found it to be a very good practice to shower the plants off well with clear cool water a day in advance of any spraying operation so that the foliage may be cleaned of any dust which might otherwise be plastered to the leaves with the spray material. This showering in itself offers a fair amount of discouragement to insect pests and is as refreshing to the plants as it is to us after a long, tough day. The old bogey about never wetting a camellia seems to me a lot of boloney, and the only time to really avoid unnecessary wetting of the top of the plant may be when the flower buds are starting to show color, at which time you might cause some blasting.

Camellias, like most other plants, may need pruning to keep them well shaped, and some of the new growth on yours may need reducing, particularly if the plant has a tendency to become "leggy." Most of the pruning may be done at the time the plant is in bloom, or immediately it has finished blooming, or again, just after the first cycle of growth has hardened in early summer, at which time you may utilize your clipping to make cuttings and thereby increase your circle of friends. It is seldom necessary to make any drastic cuts on camellias in pruning them, and if you will leave one or two eyes of the previous cycle you will have accomplished the job of checking the growth so that the plant may start branching out. Take your time when you start unless you are familiar with the

work. Camellias are not the fastest growing plants in the garden, and they very seldom will produce adventitious buds as azaleas will do. Always use sharp tools, make a clean sloping cut, and cut to an outside eye. You will in this manner build the foundation for a shapely healthy plant, with a good strong frame, capable of supporting the weight of the open blooms. Do not leave stubs of dead wood on the plant, it is an invitation to decay. Do not prune the central upright branch of the Chandleri Elegans or the Francine until the plant has reached the height desired. Once the central leader has been topped on these varieties the growth from then on will be principally lateral. Any upright grower may be staked if necessary, and long or weak branches may likewise be supported by a stake slanted in the direction you wish the branch to grow. This support may be removed when the branch has become sufficiently strong to stand by itself.

At this time of the year, or as soon as the flower buds are readily distinguishable, you may and should disbud. To produce really large flowers for the show select the strongest buds, not necessarily all at the same stage of development, as insurance against a prolonged spell of bad weather at blooming time, and remove others in excess of two at any particular branch tip. Save the buds that are well placed in regards to leaves as backing for the blooms. Some varieties of camellias produce an over-abundance of buds, and many of these flowers will be late in opening if disbudding is not practiced; in fact, old Mother Nature may disbud them for you if you don't beat her to the draw, and she sometimes is a bit more lavish than is to be desired.

All in all, the most particular need will be to take care of your watering regularly in these summer months. The plants will grow without fertilizer, they'll live through a session with the bugs, and they can survive without pruning, but water, regularly applied and properly applied can be easily your most important chore.

Lament of a Camellia Importer

By WILLIAM E. WYLAM

This is the story of my efforts to import Camellia plants from Australia. By exposing the gruesome details of my sufferings I may save some innocent fan from a similar fate. Before the War I was a comparatively care-free fellow with some forty or fifty varieties of camellias; in other words, I could take camellias or I could leave them alone. I blame the Navy for my tumble from this comfortable position, because while I was pursuing the occupation of seeing the world through a porthole, I chanced to spend the best part of the month of July, 1943, in the "Down-Under" land. At this time I visited several Australian cities, and this season being their equivalent of our Winter season, there was to be seen in the florist windows and in the parks several different varieties of camellias. In one city, in particular, the camellias were growing right out in the open as they do in our Marin County, and I saw many varieties that were new to me. I knew I had to have those varieties for my own. Just like that I was lost (and from that day on, I can't see a new Camellia without an overwhelming urge to possess it.)

SAD LAMENT NUMBER ONE

After running down several false leads I learned of a nursery in a town some distance back from the coast, which carried a large selection of Camellias. I persuaded my Officer that I rated the extra liberty needed to make the trip, and with the precious "chit" stowed away in my pocket I boarded the train. Several hours later I was at the gates of the nursery. I was welcomed by the owner and spent a wonderful afternoon making notes for future reference. Late that night I returned to my ship to dream of camellias. There was nothing I could do about acquiring them, however, until the end of the war.

In the fall of 1945 I started correspondence with my friend, the Australian nurseryman, and with Mr. R. J. Wilmot of the University of Florida, in an effort to check the list I had made that long-ago afternoon with lists of varieties known to be in this country. I wrote in regard to an Import Permit. Finally I had the order made up and I sent for seventy-two varieties of Camellias comprising a total of 130 plants. I shortly learned all steamship lines were tied up by the Army Transport Service. Airmail packages were restricted to a 2 ounce limit, and that at some seventy odd cents a half-ounce. There was nothing I could do but restrain my impatience for another year.

In 1946 I learned Pan American Airways was starting an Air-Freight Service between this country and Australia. The air lines informed me the rate would be \$2.60 per pound, but I could wait no longer. I applied for my Import Permit, naively requesting that Los Angeles be named as the Port of Entry. I was

soon wised up on that score, and I now know that San Francisco and Seattle are the only Ports of Entry on the West Coast through which plants may enter. Having secured my Permit, and having so informed my shipper, I started hunting for a Customs Broker. I interviewed four who stated that they did not bother with plant shipments, but finally found one who agreed to have his San Francisco representative handle the shipment. (The joker here was that the brokerage firm never knew the plants had arrived in this country until I wrote to inform them I had received the shipment.) The shipper wrote that the Camellias would be in condition to ship in March, 1947. Having arranged for all possible emergencies, I believed, I sat back with a warm glow of expectation and tried to wait as patiently as possible.

Following is a Chronological log of the travels and travails of my Camellias, correct to the best of my knowledge:

March 5, 1947—Plants prepared for shipping from Australia; labeled with bronze tags, soil washed from roots, roots bound in damp sphagnum, packed in bundles and the bundles wrapped in cellophane. (Nice stocky plants, beautifully packed.)

March 6, 1947—Shipment sent to officials in Sydney for delivery to Air Lines:

March 9, 1947—Plants leave Sydney aboard plane bound for U. S.

March 13, 1947—Plants arrive Oakland, cleared through Customs. Delivered to office of Plant Inspector in San Francisco.

(So far, this sounds pretty encouraging, doesn't it? Read on, Gentle Reader, read on.)

March 14, 1947—Quote, in part, excerpts from Inspector's report: "Shipment was accompanied by Australian Certificate of Inspection, affirming that plants were fumigated at origin with Cyanide for one hour, (!) However, on inspection here live scale crawlers were disclosed. Condition on arrival, Fair—Excessive leaf drop noted and many leaves appeared to have been burned by Cyanide fumigation. Insects intercepted, Scale—Treatment—Fumigated with 2 pounds Methyl Bromide per 1000 cubic feet at atmospheric pressure for 2 hours at 80 degree F. Released." (that's no joke, son!)

March 17, 1947—Shipment arrived Pasadena approximately 1 P.M. and immediately unpacked. The sphagnum moss around the roots was dry and a percentage of the plants showed complete defoliation and were dead when tested. To assure fairness, all plants, both those that were dead and those that looked dead, were soaked in B1 solution and potted the same afternoon. They were then placed in a shaded cold-frame and kept as humid as possible. Defoliation continued until on . . .

March 26, 1947—All plants were completely defoliated.

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Lament of a Camellia Importer

April 8, 1947—Cambium layer was checked just above soil. Three plants showed greenish tinge, others were entirely brown.

April 13, 1947—All plants checked dead when tested. End Log.

Thanks to the Australian Officials and their Cyanide, all I have to show for this episode is a handful of letters and statements, and a collection of beautiful bronze plant labels which were not injured in any way by the gassing. I'll leave it to you, ain't that PURE PA-THETIC?

Next issue, further laments of a Camellia Importer. Look for it!

P/S. July 10, 1947, the Customs Service decided that instead of the 15% Customs Duties assessed at the time of entry, I was liable for duties of 25%. That, Brothers, is what I call adding insult to injury.

THE NEW VARIETAL AND NOMENCLATURE BOOK

A new varietal and nomenclature book is now being prepared and should be ready for distribution to the members of the Southern California Camellia Society before our next meeting. William Woodroof of the Valléy Garden Supply Co., in North Hollywood, and Vern McCaskill of the McCaskill Camellia Gardens in Pasadena are jointly responsible.

The book, says Woodroof, will contain a list of Camellias now available, or shortly to be available on the Pacific Coast. Varieties will be listed alphabetically, descriptions of each appearing under the original or priority name, where determinable; otherwise, under the best known name. Synonyms commonly applied are listed prior to description and also in alphabetical order with reference to varieties.

The book will contain cultural directions, tips on choice of location, planting, soils, pot-culture, irrigation, fertilization, pests and diseases, pruning, disbudding, and transplanting. There will also be a section devoted to methods of propagation. A brief historical outline, together with a discussion on the sources of varietal names, the causes and remedy for the great confusion now existing in Camellia nomenclature, will make this a very well rounded and valuable handbook for amateur and professional grower alike.

We have been advised the book will be accepted for use by the nursery members of the California Association of Nurserymen and this acceptance will mean that confusion in nomenclature will be materially reduced so far as the nurserymen have been responsible. We are working hard and hope to obtain general acceptance all along the West Coast.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS—THEY HELP MAKE A BULLETIN POSSIBLE

Camellia Societies

Please Note . . .

This letter was sent to the officers of the Societies on the Pacific Coast in the hope of stirring up some information of general interest to all of us. There's really no end of trouble we'll go to for you to help make our publication interesting and informative.

July 23, 1947.

Messrs: Bradley, Portland, Oregon,
Clairmont, Glendale, Calif.
Cothran, Pomona, Calif.
Miller, San Diego, Calif.
Mohr, Sacramento, Calif.
Moniz, San Jose, Calif.
Paige, Oakland, Calif.
Sharp, Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen:

The officers and directors present at a recent meeting, were in accord that an exchange of ideas and data between the various societies on the coast would be of general interest to the members of all societies, and particularly at this time, when activity is at the minimum.

It is not the thought that this societies' Bulletins should supersede any of the other society publications, but to make all the publications better and more interesting, thus serving all society members to better advantage.

Because of the fact that we have been in touch with you gentlemen in connection with the joint nomenclature project, we are writing to you requesting that you designate some individual in your society who will act as associate editor, and furnish our Bulletin Editor with data which will be of interest to not only your members who are members of this society, but to our other members as well. We hope to go to press in another week and, therefore, urge haste.

Among items of interest mentioned were the names and addresses of your new officers and directors; where your meetings are conducted, and when; any innovations of interest in connection with your publications; plans for the ensuing year; any new cultural methods; new importations and creations; articles on historic matters and cultural technique; interesting trips which members have reported; and many other topics can very profitably be there included and stimulate interest during the "off season."

Please address your replies and data to Mr. David Cook, Bulletin Editor, 11239 Ventura Blvd., North Hollywood, California.

Signed
E. C. Tourje

OREGON CAMELLIA SOCIETY

In reply to Mr. Tourje's letter you will find the names and addresses of our officers in our year-book, "Camellias as a Hobby". Our meetings are held the third Friday of each month in the Portland Art Museum Auditorium. We are planning now for our com-

ing Spring show which will be held sometime in April.

We have just had our annual picnic which was a huge success. We had over 100 members of 300 present.

We are happy to welcome into our Society this year so many out of town members. I venture to say we have had fifty applications including almost every state in the Union, and as far away as Australia.

I am sending to you under separate cover a copy of our year book. I might add that this book is available to all clubs at the wholesale rate of minimum order fifty for \$7.50.

Yours very truly,

CLYDE P. BRADLEY,

President

4045 King Road.

Milwaukie 2, Oregon

P. S.: Who is E. C. Tourje?

POMONA VAL. CAMELLIA SOCIETY **Pomona, California**

July 30, 1947.

Mr. David Cook, Bulletin Editor,
11239 Ventura Blvd.,
North Hollywood, Calif.

Dear Mr. Cook:

With Mr. Tourje to spur us on we really should be able to go places—the right places.

Here is a list of the new officers and directors as requested in Mr. Tourje's letter of July 23.

Paul Hartman.....President
E. R. Bailey.....Vice-President
John Mason.....Secretary
Directors:

Paul Hartman
E. R. Bailey
C. D. Corthran
Tom Johnson
Hubert Reeves
Clark Thomas
Boyd Bell

Meeting Time:

The Pomona Valley Camellia Society meets first Thursday of each month beginning October through May in the Pomona Ebell Club. Display of blooms at 7:30; meeting called at 8:00.

One of our new projects, which we think will stimulate interest both in the community and our members, is that of maintaining a display of blooms (possibly some days only one bloom if of exceptional size and merit) over several weeks time in one of our local banks. The blooms are to be changed frequently, and the newest varieties displayed when they are available.

With best personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

C. D. COTHRAN,

584 Vinton St.,

Pomona, Calif.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY **Glendale, California**

Dr. John H. Clairmont.....President
1818 Oak Knoll Road, Glendale 8, Calif.
Judge Kenneth A. White.....Vice-president
2222 Bonita Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.
T. B. Nichols.....Treasurer
1824 Verdugo Knolls Place, Glendale 8, Calif.
Frank W. Barley, Jr.....Secretary
3639 Altura Ave., La Crescenta, Calif.
Mrs. R. B. Dugger.....Corresponding Secretary
1421 N. Pacific Ave., Glendale, Calif.
Bert Hummel.....Director
3404 Las Palmas Ave., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Isabel J. Mullen.....Director
3460 Atwater Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.
Mrs. Jessie Poole.....Director
1938 Rio Hondo, Rosemead, Calif.
Dr. Winston E. Squire.....Director
2030 Hill Dr., Los Angeles 41, Calif.
Roy T. Thompson.....Director
2723 Hermosita Dr., Glendale 3, Calif.

* * *

Meetings are held nine times each camellia season, November to April, at the Tuesday Afternoon Club, Glendale, Calif.

A four-paged mimeographed Bulletin is published every two months throughout the year. This is chiefly devoted to the culture of camellias, but includes notes on new varieties, nomenclature, grafting, slipping, camellia pests, news from other societies, and personal news items.

A flower-show is planned for the coming winter. It will be held in the Glendale Civic Auditorium, and committees are already at work on it.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA **CLARA COUNTY** **San Jose, California**

Following are the officers which were elected at our last meeting to service for the ensuing year:

President.....T. J. Moniz
Vice President.....D. G. Raynor
Sec'y Treasurer.....W. S. Follett

Executive Board:

C. Breschini
L. A. Bergna
A. M. Foster

Our regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month from September to April inclusive in the offices of the Agricultural Commissioner in San Jose, California.

Our Society has not progressed to the point where we have a publication of any sort. Perhaps some day we will be able to put out a bulletin treating with our activities.

Our members are greatly interested in standardized nomenclature for Camellias and I am sure when we meet again in September attention will be given to this project.

Very truly yours,

W. S. FOLLETT,

Secretary

309 Princeton Road

Menlo Park, Calif.

FROM THE HUNTINGTON TEST GARDEN

ANN GALLI

Great progress was made last year, many new plants were set out and more ground was cleared for planting. About 250 grafts were made, some from existing varieties, about 50 with new varieties—the scions having been sent Mr. Hertrich from the North. Thirty six varieties were brought in from the South, and in spite of fumigation they have put out enough new growth to supply scions for next year.

Fifty six new varieties were purchased from local nurserymen and about ten larger specimens of varieties the Garden had only as very small plants. We also had several gifts of larger plants, and scions of *Camellia Saluenensis* from England, which is proving to be quite different from the one called *Camellia Saluenensis* locally.

The Camellia Society spent about \$115.00 for plants and \$25.00 was paid to a nurseryman who did some grafting, Mr. Hertrich being short-handed at the time. These grafts were sealed as made with a grafting wax and were very slow to start growth, some made a month later and not sealed were six inches tall before the sealed ones started. They all lived, however, and are now catching up. The grafts were sealed with the idea of avoiding fungus. Mr. Hertrich secures his scions to the stock with friction tape and has been very successful in this practice.

The best thing that happened last winter was when three members of the Garden Committee of the Friends of the Huntington, all Directors, visited the Test Garden. They were amazed and interested in what they saw and a letter was sent to the Chairman of the Test Garden. The Friends of the Huntington were anxious to co-operate with the Camellia Society in working out continued and extended plantings and in expressing their deep appreciation of the help from the Society. A substantial sum of money was immediately given Mr. Hertrich for the purchase of new plants. As one of the Huntington Library Directors expressed it, "This could become the greatest collection of Camellias in the World!" . . . Why not?

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Monterey Park, Calif.

Open Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends:

Some of you have seen my letters before those nasty little reminders of things to do to your camellias the Valley Garden Supplement sends out from time to time, (they will probably diminish in frequency now that I've landed this job; I can't do everything!) and you may wonder, indeed you may, what I've possessed Dr. Taylor to urge this job on me so strongly that I could not refuse. Well, you'll just have to keep on wondering, I don't know. He is the most persistent man I've met in a long time.

However, in all seriousness, it's going to be a big job for a fellow whose time is limited as mine, and I sincerely hope all you readers will feel like lending a helping hand. I need a whole staff of good aggressive, nosey reporters from all sections. I want to make this Bulletin personal and friendly, informative and interesting. The only way I can see to overcome a lot of stiffness and formality is to get acquainted with all of you, and it would be a big help if you tried to get acquainted with each other as well with me. I am really not hard to know, and I'm sure you're not either.

What do we need? Maybe guest columnists, open forum questions, testimonials from amateurs, community singing, comic strips or what? This is your Bulletin from here on in; do you want to have a part in it or not? All right, then, here's your chance. Submit anything you believe to be of interest to the Society and we'll see that it receives space. If it's questions, I'll get them answered; if it's nomenclature, I'll ask E. Woodroof and Vern McCaskill; if it needs observing, I'll get the Interested Observers after it, and if it's research—Oh man, show me some research stuff. Have we got a research committee! I'll bet a pretty good one there isn't a better qualified committee in the whole country—more about them later.

We hope to have news exchange service established this coming season with societies and individuals from all part of the country. Your Bulletin will be as good as we all make it. Between now and next issue give me some ideas or questions, observations, what have you that is newsworthy? I'll personally appreciate suggestions and constructive criticism. You may address correspondence to me at the Nursery, 11239 Ventura Boulevard, North Hollywood.

Those of you still fortunate enough to be going on vacation, please drop me a card if you see something noteworthy — I don't want to be around much anymore. Now, once again, lend me a hand and see your name in print. Thanks.

Sincerely,

DAVE COOK,

New Varieties of Camellias Available

One of the most popular features at the regular meetings has been Bill Woodroofs discussions on the new varieties of Camellias. Those of you who have struggled manfully with Bill's rapid-fire talking should appreciate his following list, all printed out for you in easy-to-read type, and guaranteed to be a sneak preview of material you might otherwise have to write down yourselves. Look for these this year:

ARTHUR MIDDLETON: Deep pink, sometimes variegated with white. A large formal double sometimes showing stamens intermixed with petaloids when fully open. Vigorous, bushy growth. Blooms freely Mid-Season. Source, So. Carolina.

CAPTAIN MARTIN'S FAVORITE: Deep pink splotted white. Large formal double. Slow, symmetrical upright grower. Blooms Mid-Season. Source, So. Carolina.

CONFLAGRATION: Fiery red. Large semi-double, petals somewhat irregular and waved, with petaloids enclosed by a ring of prominent stamens. Blooms Mid-Season. Source, So. Carolina.

GENERAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER: Deep red, large double peony-form. Vigorous up-compact growth, blooms midseason. The variegated form of this variety is known as **ADMIRAL HALSEY**. Originated in California.

GOVERNOR RICHARD W. LECHE: Deep rose pink lightly lined rose. Large semi-double with long narrow petals, upstanding and cupped around a compact group of long stamens. Vigorous, slender growth. The source is Louisiana. Named after the former governor who is a real camellia fancier.

JOSEPHINE DUELL: Soft pink, large semi-double. Medium upright growth. Blooms midseason, the source is So. Carolina.

LADY CHARLOTTE: Clear pale pink. Large semi-double with prominent stamens and three rows of petals veined with white. Vigorous upright compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is So. Carolina.

LADY OF THE LAKE: White. Large semi-double of irregular construction with fluted petals. Vigorous loose spreading growth. Blooms midseason. The source is So. Carolina.

LIBERTY BELL: White. Large semi-peony form. Vigorous semi-upright growth. Blooms over a long period, the source is Alabama.

LOUISE WEICK: Fiery red. Large semi-double with long cluster of delicate petaloids. Vigorous upright compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is So. Carolina.

MAGNOLIA QUEEN: (Priscilla Brooks) White with red stripes. Very large semi-double with irregular wavy petals. Medium compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is So. Carolina.

MARTHA BRICE: Light lavender pink. Large semi-double to loose peony form. Vigorous spreading growth. Blooms mid-season, the source is Georgia.

MARTHA G. BETZ: Copper red. Large full peony form. Vigorous compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is California.

MARY CHARLOTTE: Light pink. Medium large, flat anemone form. Vigorous upright, compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is California.

MME. HAHN: Bright pink. Large semi double. Vigorous upright growth. Blooms midseason, the source is California.

MRS. CHARLES SIMONS: White. Very large variform (single, semi double to loose peony form) of loose construction with stamens. Vigorous upright compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is South Carolina.

MRS. FREEMAN WEISS: Pink. Large, loose semi double with wavy petals and petaloids mixed with stamens. Vigorous upright compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is South Carolina.

PEARL HARBOR: Dark red. Large loose peony form. Vigorous growth. Blooms mid-season, the source is South Carolina.

PRIMA DONNA: Bright pink. Large open semi double with veined petals. Vigorous bushy growth. Blooms midseason to late. There is a variegated form of this variety. The source, South Carolina.

RASEN ZOME: Light rose pink, sometimes mottled white. Medium large semi double to peony form. Medium compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is Japan.

ROBERT E LEE: Dark red with veins in petals even darker, and with red stamens. Large loose irregular semi double with usually a few petaloids showing. Vigorous compact growth. Blooms midseason, the source is South Carolina.

SAIFU: Dark red splotted white with red veins in petals. Large semi double with five or six rows of large petals that stand out individually. The source is Japan.

VICTORY MAID: White. Medium variform (semi double, rose form double or formal double). Slow compact growth. Blooms late, the source is Alabama.

WOODVILLE RED: (Mrs. White, Martin Roberts, Kollach, Gruenwald Red). Deep strawberry red. Very large semi double to peony form. Slow upright growth. Blooms midseason, the source is the South.

NOTES ON CAMELLIAS IN THE DEEP SOUTH

Editor's Note: The following facts were literally pried out of our Director-at-large, Mr. Ed Arnesen, whose recent trip through the South carried him into the home grounds of the Camellia. His disclosures were of such interest to me I believed they would prove to be of equal interest to you, hobbyists and professionals alike. Ed said he had several other items worthy of note, and those of you who would care to hear of them should so signify by dropping me a note at the nursery address.

The Camellia center of the South, if not of the world, is Mobile, Alabama. In this area there are some 132 camellia and azalea growers. Five of these nurseries are each producing over one million camellias and azaleas annually. Talk about production!

The plants are propagated in large beds in glasshouses, none of this frame within a frame stuff for them. When the plants are rooted they are set out directly into open beds, in the ground, under cover of lath, where they remain for one year. The lath houses, or "slat-houses" as they are called there are very haphazard affairs, cheaply constructed, and in some instances covering as much as forty acres, under a single roof.

After the camellias have spent their first year in the lath house, they are then planted out in nursery rows, right out under God's blue sky, spaced about two feet apart in the rows, and spaced between the rows at some convenient distance to allow cultivation by mule or tractor, much the same way tomatoes are grown here.

Climatic conditions are such that in one case 100 acres of camellias, plants just out of the lath houses, were set out with no provision made for irrigation. The grower explained to the bewildered Arnesen that in the event the summer proved to be a dry one the crop would be lost, in which case the ground would be prepared for the next years crop. How do you like that? This practice is not so wildly extravagant as it would seem at first mention however, the first five months of this year had provided some 45 inches of rain, and the growers regularly depend on 50 to 60 inches annually, which is definitely sufficient inasmuch as the biggest part of this deluge falls during the summer . . . Also, this area is close to the Gulf, bayous and rivers interlace it, and the humidity is very high, therefore the margin of safety is quite wide even in a prolonged dry spell.

Pacific Coast hobbyists have long labored under the impression that the Southern states are far better suited climatically for production of bloom than we are. The camellia books all seem to infer that we are indeed brave to attempt to grow camellias here, and only the very hardy varieties may stand a

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chance of survival. 'Taint so, says Edward B., just this past winter three separately scheduled southern camellia shows had to be cancelled because severe and prolonged cold weather caused blossoms to blast. South Carolina, Georgia, and Northern Florida have such severe winters the semi-double camellias are the only type that stand a chance of producing bloom with any degree of certainty. Formal or peony type flowers will generally blast. This is the main reason the semi doubles such as Ville de Nantes, Adolph Eudusson, and Flame are so highly rated by the Southern growers; not that they are not fine flowers wherever grown. Western growers have wondered for years why the Eastern flower markets have not been supplied by the Southern growers. The reason—the Southern growers cannot produce the corsage type flowers except under glass, which might as well be done in the flower market areas thus saving the expense of shipment by air-express. On the other hand, corsage flowers are produced here on plants grown under lath, no forcing necessary. The flowers are stronger, better colored, ship well, and make an all around finer corsage for milady. So now you know why the Southern growers will not rate a formal or peony flower (generally speaking) as highly as a semi double. We could send a top flight variety such as Margaret Hertrick, for example, to a Southern grower, and hardly be thanked for it. He simply can't successfully bloom it.

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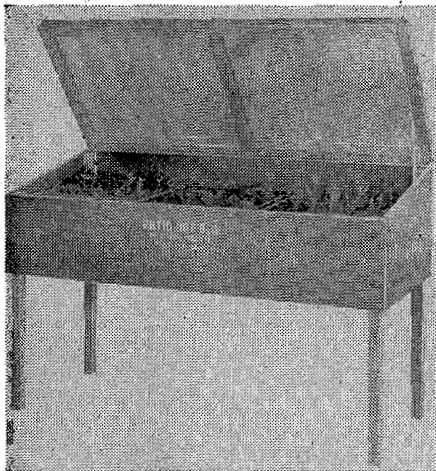
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