

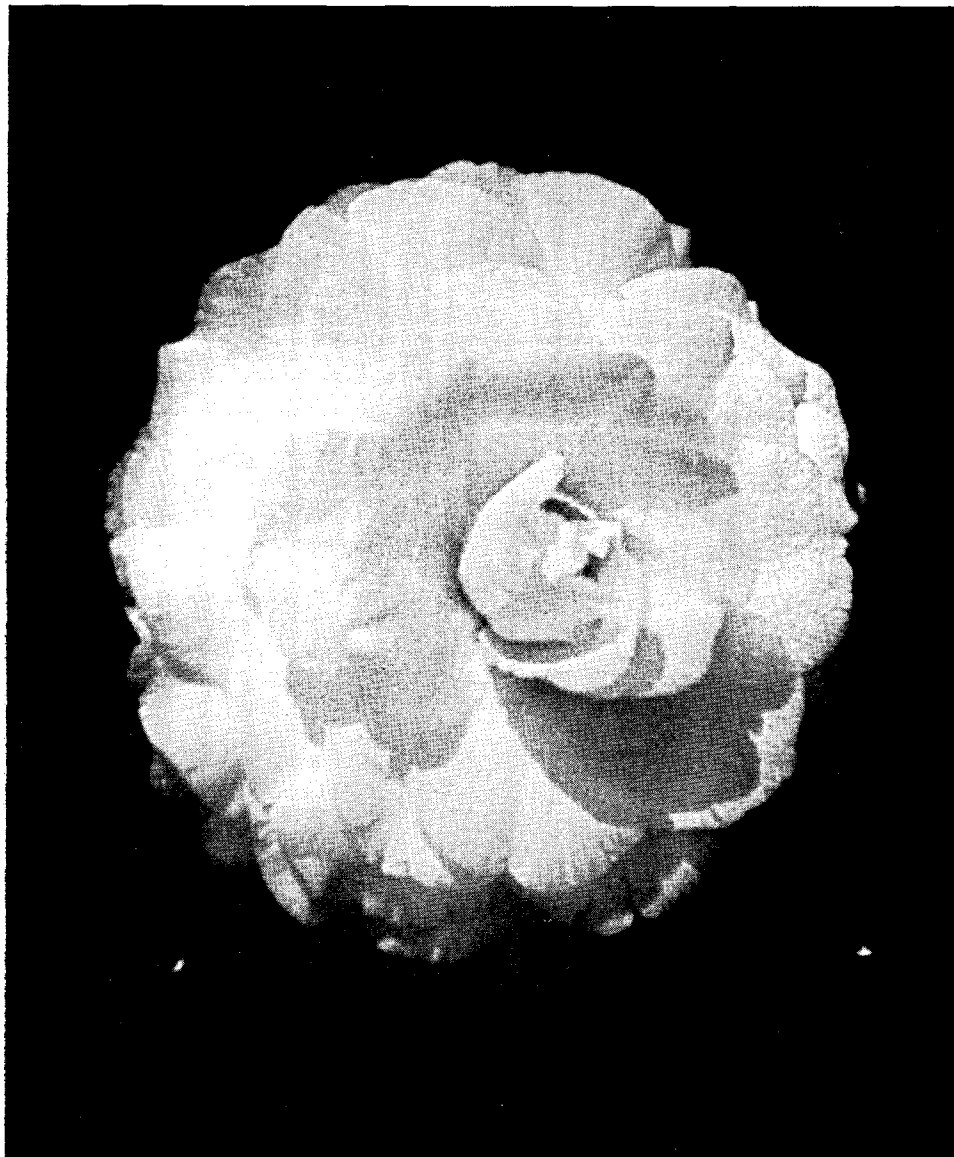
# *Northern California Camellia Society, Inc.*

A Non-Profit Organization

Volume 4, No. 3

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

February, 1951



*Mother of Pearl*

Courtesy CAMELLIA HALL NURSERY, 4950 44th Street, Sacramento 17.

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The Northern California Camellia Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization of camellia fanciers interested in the culture, propagation, and development of camellias. Meetings are held on the first Monday in each month from October to May inclusive, at 8 p.m., at the Chabot School Auditorium, Oakland. Membership is open to all those with a serious interest in the subject. Annual Dues \$5.00. Membership application blanks may be obtained from Bruce Harless, Secretary, 1301 Stannage Avenue, Berkeley.

**Published by the Northern California Camellia Society, Inc.**

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PAY YOUR DUES AND GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WHICH WILL ADMIT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO SIXTH ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC., ON MARCH 3 AND 4, 1951.

## **CAMELLIA CULTURE**

By David L. Feathers, Past President, Lafayette

Camellias are easy to grow! Moreover, they are hardy plants in this climate, responding beautifully to cool weather, which, excepting for a severe freeze, actually benefits the texture and color of the flowers. Our camellias came through the last two unusually cold winters with flying colors, thus proving their supremacy over other winter-blooming plants in this locality. Like most acid-loving plants, however, their culture differs from that of the more common garden plants. For example, unlike roses, camellias delight in having their foliage wet, particularly after sundown. They do better when kept by themselves or when combined with other acid-type plants, such as azaleas and rhododendrons.

The camellia is actually a slow-growing tree, shallow-rooted but of very long life. It is considered the handsomest of the broad-leaf evergreens and is highly decorative even when not in bloom. Its flowering season, coming when the garden is barest of flowers, makes it an absolute must for those who wish year-round color.

Camellias come from coastal China and the neighboring islands, growing wild as a plant of the forest in hilly, even mountainous areas having heavy rainfall, surrounded by larger trees which afford protection and food in the form of humus. Thus the camellia needs these conditions for best results: **GOOD DRAINAGE, ADEQUATE MOISTURE, ACID SOIL, PARTIAL SHADE, SOME SHELTER AND SHALLOW PLANTING.** The essential thing is to start the camellia off right — after-care is slight. You need

not be an expert gardener to grow fine camellias, but they will respond most gratifyingly to care and to proper environment.

### **Drainage**

On sloping ground, excess water will run off the surface and in loose or sandy soils it will drain through readily. On flat ground, especially where the soil is heavy or clay-type, improved drainage should be provided by placing rock or other non-rotting material to a depth of 3 to 6 inches in the bottom of the hole dug for the plant. However, if the planting soil is sufficiently coarse and loose, and the hole deep enough, good drainage should not be a problem.

### **Soil Mixture**

The main object is to have the soil light and loose, with a high humus content. This may involve removing most, or all, of the old soil, especially if heavy. A well-mixed combination of 1 part loam, 1 part peat, 1 part leaf-mold, and ½ part sand is satisfactory. Some growers like to add ½ part of cow manure. Sand and humus improve the texture of heavy soils. Humus and loam, added to very sandy soils, give better moisture-retention. Camellias will not tolerate soggy soil, so whatever the mixture, the water should penetrate immediately; it should not stand nor cause a film of mud to be formed on the surface. Such a mud film will seal off essential air and water.

### **Planting**

The size of the hole to be dug will depend upon the type of soil you have: If a light loam—which camellia roots can and will penetrate even-

tually—the hole need not be so wide nor so deep as would be required with heavy soil. Broadly speaking, the hole should be at least 18 inches deep and as wide as the plant spread; for a camellia over 4 feet high, the larger the better.

Camellias in burlap should be planted with the sacking intact, for this protects the roots in handling but soon rots away when placed in the ground.

**NEVER PLANT DEEPER THAN THE CAMELLIA IS SET IN ITS CONTAINER!** If the roots are partly exposed, cover them lightly with mulch. Allow for about 2 inches of settling, due to watering and humus-breakdown. Firm the soil about the roots with your hands; **then** water thoroughly. Do **not** compact soil after watering.

Avoid planting near or in soil containing mortar or plaster as lime is extremely injurious to camellia roots.

### **Moisture**

The object is to keep the camellia uniformly moist at all times—**not** soggy, **not** dry. This is extremely important. Bud drop and poor flowers are likely to result from one or the other extreme. Any shallow-rooted plant requires more watering than one having deep roots. However, a thick mulching with oak leaves or pine needles will assist materially in keeping the soil moist and temperature fairly constant. No fixed rule can be given for watering, since temperature, humidity, drainage and general environment will vary greatly. But in summer a good soaking at least once a week, with frequent light watering of the ground and foliage after sundown, should be adequate if proper

mulching is observed. Camellias require most moisture during the flowering season, in winter and early spring, as well as during the growing season, in spring and early summer, which almost coincides with our rainy season. Whatever the season, however, water them during a prolonged dry spell to insure that adequate moisture is available to develop good growth and flowers. Even though the plant might survive without being watered.

### **Acidity**

Camellias like acid soil, will tolerate neutral soil, but will usually fail in alkaline soil. Alkalinity causes yellowing of foliage, leaf and bud drop, and a sickly-looking plant. Since water from the East Bay system is usually alkaline, it is best to start with an acid soil, such as the mixture given above, and systematically apply acid either in the form of pine needles or other leaf-mold mulch, or by the use of acid-containing fertilizers—preferably both. It is difficult to get the soil too acid as the tap-water constantly counteracts the acidity. Agricultural sulphur, aluminum sulphate and prepared liquid acidifiers may be used according to direction as soil correctors. Maintaining soil acidity is not a problem in areas where the water is about neutral.

### **Shade and Shelter**

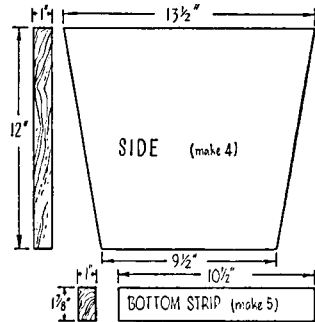
Remembering the natural environment of the camellia, it is not difficult to understand why it prefers semi-shade and some protection from strong or cold winds and hottest sun. The filtered sunlight under a live-oak, for example, is ideal. Where light shade is not present, an eastern exposure—morning sun and afternoon

(Continued on page 13)

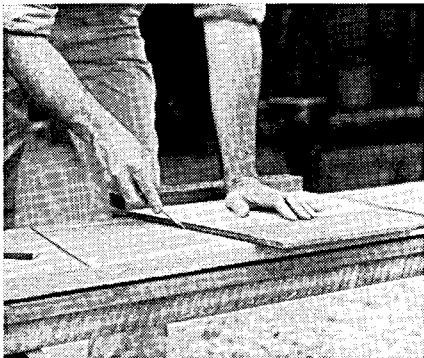
## REDWOOD CAMELLIA BOX ... AND MATCHING CART

Courtesy SUNSET Magazine  
Photos by Herbert V. Mitchell

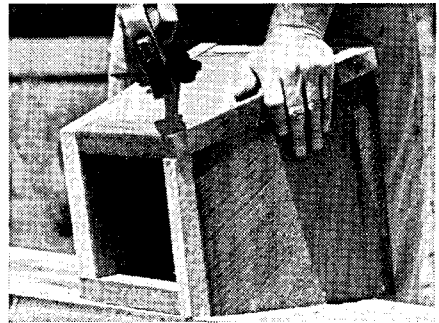
**IF YOU GROW** lots of plants in containers, and also are interested in back-saving devices, look to this redwood box and matching hand truck built by Herbert V. Mitchell of Walnut Creek, Calif.



Pattern showing front and side views of box sides and bottom strips. Sides are cut from 1- by 12-inch redwood planks. To save wood, invert side pattern each time.



For accurate and rapid sawing, plywood jig, cut to correct size, is placed on the 1- by 12-inch redwood boards and is used to mark off side sections of the container.



Four 2½-inch nails are driven into each side. Since sides are identical, lap each side over end of next so that box is square.

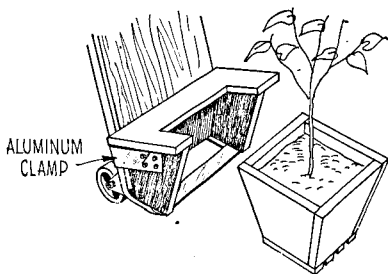


Last step is nailing on the five bottom strips shown in the pattern. Be sure to leave spaces in between strips on bottom so as to permit water to drain through.

### CONTAINER CARRIER



As the hand-truck is tipped backward, it clamps onto the container and lifts it off the ground. A forward motion replaces it.



With the device shown here, no lifting of heavy containers is necessary. It is a small hand-truck to which is attached a carrying jig that is removable. The jig is made of one-inch plywood and is tailored to fit the hand truck. The opening is cut to the size of the container. It is held in place by two strips of aluminum which clamp across the metal body of the hand-truck.

## ALL CAMELLIA SHOW AT SAN RAFAEL

The Bank of San Rafael has again courteously offered its very adaptable quarters for this 8th Annual Camellia Show. The doors will be open to the public from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Saturday, February 24, 1951.

Come and see one of the most unique camellia shows in California. You will be amazed how a bank can be transformed in a few hours, by means of inclined display-shelves camouflaging counters, to a fairyland of specimen camellia blooms, flowering plants, and camellia arrangements.

## COURTESY SUNSET

"COURTESY SUNSET MAGAZINE" is seen again and again in the pages of our Bulletin; they have proved to be our real friends in helping us to develop an illustrated publication. To show our sincere appreciation, let's "play ball" with SUNSET Magazine.

## TEN SOLID CAMELLIA FAVORITES

### by vote of Western growers

**IF YOU** were planning a camellia garden of ten plants, which varieties would you buy? The camellia enthusiast would say the list should include not only representative types of flowers, but also flowers especially adapted for cutting, corsages, and exhibition; interesting range of color; hardy plants; attractive foliage; and good garden subjects when not in bloom.

Choosing plants by seeing them at your nursery and studying them in the catalogs are ways to get what you want. Another is to arm yourself with knowledge of the experiences of growers and collectors and then make up your mind.

To boil down such experience and opinion into one usable list, *Sunset Magazine* asked Western camellia growers to name their twenty favorites. Out of 125 nominations, those which received endorsement from at least one-third of the growers were listed. Shown here are the ten varieties which received more than 50 per cent of the votes. These are what growers might call the bread-and-butter varieties, or what specialists might refer to as the backbone or nucleus of a collection.

### THE WINNERS IN RED

#### Adolphe Audusson

**Flower:** Extremely large, rich dark red semi-double with cylinder of prominent stamens.

**Bloom period:** Midseason.

**Growth habit:** Rapid, compact; large-leaved, dark glossy foliage.

**Comments:** Occasionally throws variegated sports.

#### Mathotiana (Julia Drayton, Purple Emperor, Mathotiana Rubra)

**Flower:** Carmine, very large, double, incomplete imbricated. Distinct, deeper-colored veins.

**Bloom period:** Midseason to late.

**Growth habit:** Upright, with branches growing out and up; broad, blunt-nosed leaves, often reflexed along margins.

**Comments:** One of the heaviest, largest blooms.

#### Ville De Nantes

**Flower:** Large semi-double, dark turkey-red, sometimes splashed with white, fluted, with serrated petals.

**Bloom period:** Early in midseason.

**Growth habit:** Medium to slow, fairly compact, upright.

**Comments:** In California, rated as a beautiful, symmetrical plant with small dark green leaves.

### THE WINNERS IN PINK

#### Debutante

**Flower:** Most delicate light pink, medium double irregular form with tightly-clustered petals.

**Bloom period:** Early to midseason.

**Growth habit:** Vigorous, upright.

**Comments:** Shy blooming when young. Should have some protection against the weather. Excellent for corsages.

#### Kumasaka

**Flower:** Large rose-pink, incomplete double. Petaloids mixed with stamens.

**Bloom period:** Midseason to late.

**Growth habit:** Rapid, compact, upright. Rounded shrub.

**Comments:** Should be in every garden. Free-blooming, even as a young plant. An old-timer which can safely be recommended to every gardener.

#### Lady Clare (Grandiflora Rosea, Empress)

**Flower:** Deep pink to rose, five to six-inch semi-double with long yellow stamens in a central cylinder. Sometimes central stamens are transformed to small petals.

**Bloom period:** Midseason.

**Growth habit:** Rapid, hardy, bushy, spreading, horizontal branching.

**Comments:** Free flowering. Always a favorite. Nurserymen never fail to suggest this variety to their customers. Excellent for espaliering.

### THE WINNER IN WHITE

#### Purity

**Flower:** Double white, incomplete-imbricated, generally showing short stamens when fully open.

**Bloom period:** Late.

**Growth habit:** Vigorous, upright.

**Comments:** One of the hardiest of white camellias. An old-timer and very reliable. Late blooming is an advantage in white camellias as rain damage can often be avoided.

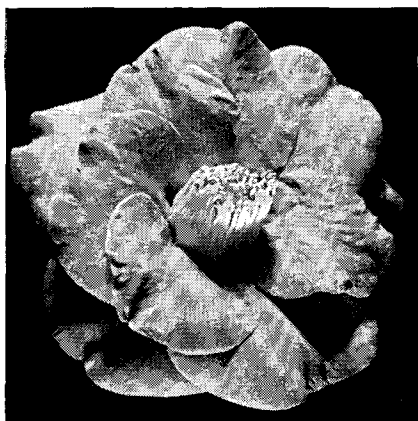
### THE VARIEGATED WINNERS

#### Donckelari

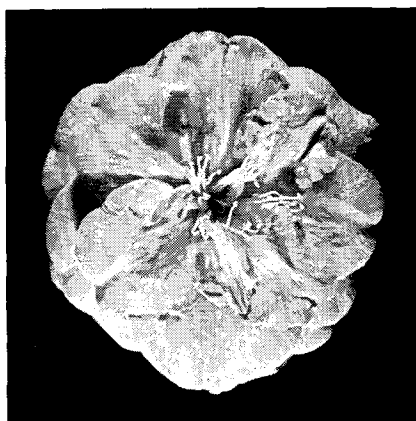
**Flower:** Very large semi-double of glowing red, strikingly marbled with white.

**Bloom period:** Midseason.

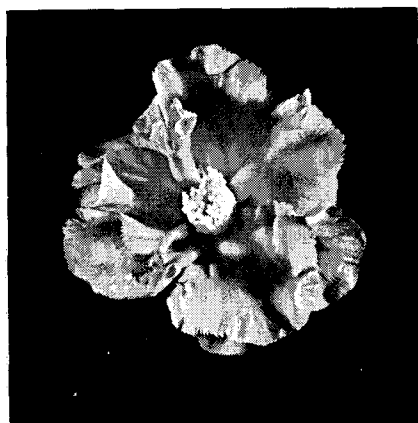
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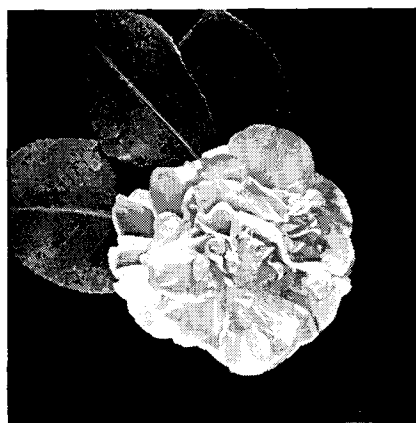
Adolphe Audusson



Mathotiana



Ville De Nantes



Debutante

Courtesy SUNSET Magazine  
Photos by Herbert V. Mitchell

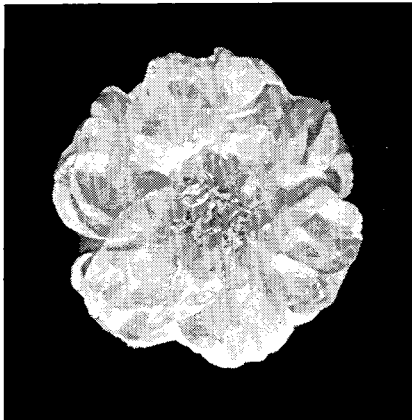




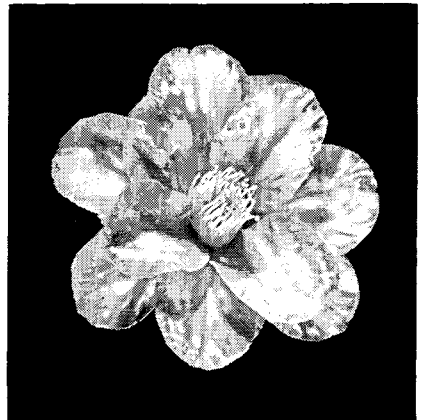
Kumasaka



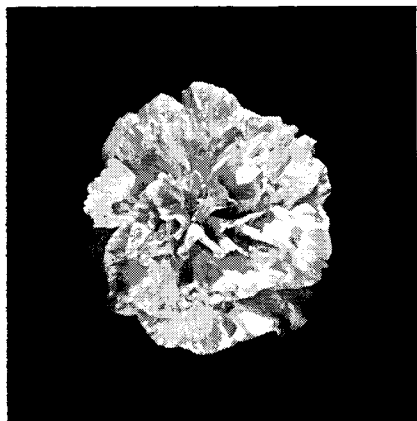
Lady Clare



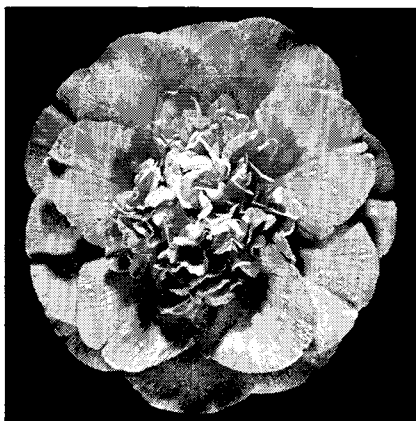
Purity



Donckelari



Daikagura Variegated



Chandleri Elegans

## CAMELLIA FAVORITES —

(Continued from page 7)

**Growth habit:** Slow, bushy.

**Comments:** One of the finest of its type. Variable in amount of variegation. Tea Garden strain shows considerable white, and is heavy-blooming.

### Daikagura Variegated (Kiyosu)

**Flower:** Large double irregular, bright rosy-pink to red, splotted white. Small petaloids clustered to form central mass within guard petals.

**Bloom period:** Early to late midseason.

**Growth habit:** Slow, compact.

**Comments:** Tops all variegated camellias on many lists. Generally flowers early when few camellia japonicas are in bloom, and may still show some blooms in March. It has a permanent place in the camellia Hall of Fame.

### Chandleri Elegans (Elegans — Chandler)

**Flower:** Very large, double irregular, with heavy mass of small petals within guard petals, showing no stamens. (In Deep South, flowers as an incomplete double showing stamens intermixed with small central petals.)

**Bloom period:** Early to midseason.

**Growth habit:** Slow, spreading.

**Comments:** This old-favorite standby is a must in any collection. Excellent for corsage. Easy to espalier.

## SINGING GARDENS

The Garden Club of Turlock is staging a Camellia and Bulbs Show on Saturday, March 10, 1951, from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m., at the Officers Club on the County Fair Grounds. The theme is "Singing Gardens."

Colorful spring bulbs combined with camellias can surely make the garden sing. Come and admire the display and you will go away with a song in your heart.

## TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SHOW

Those of you who are in Southern California the first weekend in March will not want to miss the 3rd Annual All-Camellia Show in the Temple City Park, Temple City, on March 3 and 4, 1951. From all reports this is an outstanding exhibit of specimen blooms, plants, and flower arrangements.

## 1951 CAMELLIA SHOW AT SACRAMENTO

**VISITORS** arriving at Sacramento's 27th Annual Camellia Show in the Municipal Auditorium on March 10th and 11th will be treated to a novel arrangement of camellia blossoms on the tables. The flowers will be placed according to color: white, pink, red, and variegated. This is expected to give a more colorful effect.

The 1951 show-schedule will put emphasis on varieties; each variety having three or more entries will be judged as a separate class. This provision will apply to the three-blossom group as well.

The show committee realized that some of the outstanding new varieties might be penalized by this regulation, where but one or two entries are made; it was therefore provided that the remaining flowers in each color group would be judged as a class. Honorable mention awards will also be issued to worthy varieties and any flower in each horticultural sec-

tion, other than the plates of three, trays and potted plants, are eligible for the outstanding-flower award. Special awards are provided for the plates of threes, trays, seedlings, and potted plants.

The point-value for sweepstakes remains the same for single specimens, plates of three, boutonniere and seedlings. Three points for first, two for second, and one for third. Point values for the collection of named varieties, seven or more named varieties on a tray, trays of seven, trays of eleven, and potted camellias will be trebled.

Two classes have been set up in the arrangement section for juniors (1 to 14 years old); two for novices (persons who have not entered competition in a previous flower show) and six in the standard section.

Schedules are available and will be furnished by Arthur E. Mohr, 2609 Castro Way, Sacramento, California.

### COVER ILLUSTRATION

**MOTHER OF PEARL.** This medium large, complete double, incomplete imbricated, has a color marking unlike any other camellia yet introduced. Lustrous pure white petals are delicately marked at the base with very short streaks of soft pink, giving a warm pink glow in the depths of the flower — and when fully open, the cluster of short stamens, which are sometimes mixed with tiny white petaloids, add creamy tints to the inner petals. The effect is of a perfectly-formed flower of rare beauty with almost unbelievable tints fashioned from a giant pearl of the South Seas.

The long-lasting, corsage-type blooms, borne in profusion on a compact, upright plant make this a florist's delight and bring joy to all who appreciate the unusual in fine camellias.

It is a Japanese import of about 1937. Its growth, blooming-habits and flower form are identical to **Baronne de Bleichroeder**, the Bleichroeder pink sport **Casablanca**, and **Otome White**. K. Sawada and the late Roy Wilmot both saw it in bloom and agreed on the above bloom-description and plant-behavior. Roy Wilmot gave it the name **Mother of Pearl**. (Camellia Hall, 4950 44th Street, Sacramento 17.)

## PRIZE WINNERS AND DONORS

Nurserymen have continued to supply outstanding camellia plants as Door Prizes and Exhibitors' Prizes with a lavish hand.

### January 8, 1951

JOSHUA E. YOUTZ (White Daik), a new and superb white complete-double-irregular, donated by JAMES RARE PLANT NURSERY, 605 South San Jose-Los Gatos Road, Highway 17 at Union, Campbell, California, won by F. A. Grimmelman, Oakland.

THELMA DALE, phlox-pink sport of Mrs. Baldwin Wood, high-standing petals intermixed with stamen and darker-pink penciling around edges of petals, donated by JAMES RARE PLANT NURSERY, Campbell, California. One of the most exquisite of the new introductions from the Deep South. Won by C. T. LeHew, Alameda.

### February 15, 1951

DONCKELARI, TEA GARDEN STRAIN, a stunning Donckelari, bright red with lots of white variegation, donated by EAST BAY NURSERY, 2332 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, won by Lee B. Sutliff, Berkeley.

YOSEMITE, new West Coast introduction, very large rich-red, upstanding petals intermixed with stamen, donated by NAVLET'S, Telegraph Avenue at 20th Street, Oakland, won by Mrs. Louise M. Goodban, Danville.

As a token of the good will of the N.C.C.S., President Gordon W. Richmond donated two plants: one for a new member, won by Walter Powell, Oakland; and one for a guest, won by Ward S. Ongman, Danville.

Our Past President David L. Feathers donated a Mathotiana Flesh Pink graft for flower arrangements, which was won by Mrs. F. A. Grimmelman, Oakland.

## ROY J. WILMOT MEMORIAL GARDEN

Members of the Men's Garden Club of Gainesville, Florida, have adopted the project of creating a Camellia Garden in memory of Mr. Roy J. Wilmot. Mr. Wilmot was an enthusiastic member of the club and one of the founders. This worthy project is a fitting tribute to a man who was an inspiration to every member.

The club has obtained an agreement from the city to dedicate an area of seven blocks in a beautiful parkway of some 300 ft. in width that separates two curving drives in a fine residential section. A small stream winds through the parkway and a number of stately trees provide proper shade conditions. The city has also agreed to supervise the culture and care of the garden.

Every member of the Gainesville Club will donate one or more plants to the garden. The Federated Garden Clubs of the city will also cooperate fully.

It is believed that many friends of Mr. Wilmot who live all over "Camellialand," will want to participate in this project by making a gift of one or more plants. Anyone who wishes to make a gift should write to Mr. S. McK. Mixson, P.O. Box 58, Gainesville, Florida.

The committee requests that no one ship a plant until after correspondence with the Chairman as it is necessary to make arrangements for selected dates. In some instances, the number of plants in one part of a state may warrant sending a truck or trailer instead of shipment by common carrier.

—American Camellia Quarterly  
Vol. 6, No. 1, January 1951

## CAMELLIA CULTURE —

(Continued from page 4)

shade—is preferable. But ordinarily, the camellia will do well on any side of the house when well-mulched, if it gets about half-sun. Too much shade results in sparse flowering while too much sun produces excessive bud set and burnt foliage. There are, however, certain varieties more tolerant than others to sun or to shade.

### Fertilizing

Camellias thrive on heavy feeding, whether it be natural humus, animal manures, prepared fertilizers,—liquid or dry, organic or chemical. Many prefer to use the prepared acid-reaction type, which have been found highly satisfactory. Some alternate from one to another throughout the season, to get the advantages of each, but there seems to be no established preference. Whatever method is used, with prepared fertilizers it is recommended that the applications be light and frequent rather than heavy, occasional feedings, although the camellia will use the greatest amount of food when the spring growth starts, right after flowering. Roughly speaking, start feeding about mid-march, continuing with monthly applications until mid-July when the plants should be allowed to go dormant in order that existing buds, rather than new foliage, will develop. A half-portion of plant-food may be given again in November, or when the buds start showing color, for larger flowers.

### GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

**Balance** between the three growth elements—sun, water and plant-food—is very important. An excess or deficiency of any one may cause trouble, with camellias or almost any plant. To illustrate: do not feed a camellia growing in the shade as heavily as one growing in full sun.

**Disbudding** will give larger though fewer flowers. For exhibition blooms, disbud in summer so that each flower will have space to open unhindered.

**Pruning** is not necessary except to trim out dead wood or unwanted growth, but cutting off protruding growth will make the plant more bushy and symmetrical. Cutting back the leader will produce a rounder, less tall, plant. Cutting flowers with up to three leaves is not detrimental except with very small plants, from which no wood should be taken with the blooms.

**Transplanting** should be done during the dormant period—usually any time between November and March—before growth starts.

**Cultivation** is not necessary to camellias—it is far better to mulch instead. For this purpose a 3-inch embankment may be made about the plant, to hold the mulch in place. Remove old mulch to avoid building up the soil level.

**Pests:** Scale and aphids are more of a nuisance than a serious pest, from which the camellia is relatively free. Spray with any of the modern insecticides, according to directions, or wash off with a strong spray from the hose.

**Blossom Blight**, a brown spotting of the petals which grows as the flower gets older, while not common is serious. To prevent infection and reinfestation, keep spent blooms picked up cleanly.

**Container Culture:** Camellias do very well as potted plants and are grown extensively in this manner. The cultural directions are essentially the same except that closer care is generally required, particularly in watering and in fertilizing.

**Camellia Societies** and members thereof, including the nurserymen, strive to encourage and maintain the highest standards of conduct in all matters pertaining to culture and distribution of camellia plant material and work for progressive improvement, in order to further the enjoyment of this beautiful plant by the general public. Your support is cordially invited.

## WHIP GRAFT

Demonstrated by O. E. Hopfer, Past President,  
at January 8, 1951 meeting of N.C.C.S.

While, like the nurseryman, I probably make more cleft grafts than any other type, I want to demonstrate to you my favorite method of grafting—the WHIP GRAFT. I like the whip graft particularly because, when well done, it is impossible to detect the graft union without minute examination. I use the whip graft whenever I find that I have a scion and an understock of the same diameter. I cut off the understock with a slanting, diagonal cut of perhaps 1½ to 2 inches in length. Then I lay the scion alongside the slanted understock and measure on the scion the exact length of the slanting cut I made on the understock. The length of the slanting cut on the scion must be exactly the same length as the slanting cut on the understock. After making the slanting cut at the base of the scion, I cut a

tongue into the slanting cut on both the scion and the understock. When these two tongues are neatly fitted and the scion carefully wrapped, there are six junctures where the cambium layers are matched up — three on one side and three on the opposite side. Thus, if you are wearing bi-focals and some of your matching up is done by feel rather than by sight, you have six chances of matching with a whip graft as compared to two chances with a cleft or wedge graft. I believe that the whip graft is neater, stronger, and avoids all of the humps and bumps and other disfiguring evidence of grafting so characteristic of other more commonly used methods. But, as stated at the beginning, you must use an understock and a scion of exactly the same diameter.

## TRIANGULAR NOTCH GRAFT

Demonstrated by H. V. Allington, M.D.  
at January 8, 1951 meeting of N.C.C.S.

A notch graft can be used on almost any size of understock. On large shrubs several scions can be fitted around the circumference of the understock without the need of splitting it.

I prepare the scion first, cutting so as to produce a triangular wedge tapering smoothly to a point. The "outer" side of the wedge is composed of undamaged bark and cambium layer.

A V-shaped notch is then cut into the understock to fit the prepared scion. This notch likewise tapers to a point. With care the notch in the understock can be prepared to fit the scion quite accurately so that the cambium layers on scion and understock touch all around.

The scion, or scions, are then held in place with rubber bands or with string or other binding material as desired.

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**of the**  
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.**

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