

# *The* *Camellia Bulletin*

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**NELLIE EASTMAN**

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## TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT

In this issue we have concentrated on a discussion of the newer camellia varieties; first, because this sort of report is one of the most valuable services a camellia publication or society can render to those who support it; secondly, because by presenting the opinions of responsible amateur growers from different areas, we can most clearly emphasize a fact of first importance to the would-be camellia buyer—that a variety which is highly regarded in one locality may be completely unsatisfactory in another. It is suggested, therefore, that the reader of these completely dependable and valid appraisals keep foremost in mind the particular climate and environment which will most closely approximate his own, in judging the merits of a new camellia, unless it happens to be favorably reported on by all, and that, incidentally, would constitute endorsement of the highest calibre.

This brings to mind other recent attempts that have been made, purportedly to determine the most outstanding new camellia with particular reference to good performance everywhere camellias can be grown in this country. I refer specifically to the so-called ALL-AMERICA CAMELLIA SELECTIONS, which last year chose as its first selection the sport "CINDERELLA," about which we commented at length in the last issue. It begins to appear quite conclusively that the broad and rigid principles of selection announced as basic policy, adherence to which is absolutely essential if the plan is to have any merit, have not been followed with respect to this first selection. The result has been much criticism, disappointment and, in some cases, outrage. Unfortunately, due to a similarity of name, some people have mistakenly blamed the American Camellia Society for this. To set the record straight, there is not now, never has been and never will be any official connection between the national society and the organization of commercial growers incorporated under the name of ALL-AMERICA CAMELLIA SELECTIONS, simply because their objects and purposes are almost diametrically opposite.

There is a movement under way at the present time, involving some of the leading figures in the camellia world in Australia, England and this country, for the development of a numerical rating system which could be applied universally but modified to suit local conditions. This is designed to develop a completely impartial appraisal of a camellia's merits based largely upon its freedom from faults. We expect to report on this matter fully at a future date; meanwhile, it is hoped that individual appraisals such as set forth herein will prove to be of some practical value as a guide in purchasing the new camellia introductions.

## COMMITTEE ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE INTER-SOCIETY RELATIONS

One of the most constructive and promising developments in the affairs of the American Camellia Society occurred at the Annual Meeting held last February, at which time an Inter-Society Relations Committee was created. Mr. Aubrey C. Harris of Shreveport, La., is serving as Chairman and Dr. E. Clark Hubbs of Glendale is representing the California area on this liaison Committee.

It is the purpose of the American Camellia Society, through this Committee, to bring about closer relationship between the national and local organizations, for mutual benefit. As a start, it has been determined to create a class of membership in the American Camellia Society comprised of the local camellia societies and garden clubs, by means of which universal rules and procedures, particularly with respect to camellia shows, and information of a general and helpful character may be disseminated.

*(Continued on Page 15)*

## A REPORT ON SOME NEW VARIETIES

\*Woodford F. Harrison, Berkeley, California

We have been growing camellias in North Berkeley, on the western slope of the hills, for the past twenty-four years. For the first ten we did not realize the importance, in growing camellias, of proper location in our garden, but the ensuing years have only served to emphasize this requirement. When we purchased our first camellias, the wealth of written material now available on their culture was lacking, and we moved them four times before we learned that the east side of the house was the best location to avoid burning of the foliage. At that time, ignorance of the fine quality of the blooms obtainable in warmer climates kept us from being too fussy about our results. With the advent of the first Camellia Show, we began to realize that there were better ways of growing camellias. Since that time we have tried every location around our place that might tend to simulate the warmer climate that naturally exists on the other side of the Berkeley Hills, and which is so well adapted to the successful growing of camellias.

Unlike some of our good camellia friends, we so much prefer to live just where we are that the thought has never seriously come to us to move to the Orinda, Lafayette or Walnut Creek area. So we go on struggling.

Our property slopes to the southwest where we have the prevailing tradewinds in summer and throughout a large part of the year. So much cool wind blows across our garden that it becomes almost impossible to make a fruit like an apricot ripen evenly on both sides. The side exposed to the cool wind remains hard, while the opposite side becomes ripe. We have come to the conclusion that this same wind keeps the camellia buds too cool during the formative stage. This seems to have a marked influence on the size and quality of the blooms obtained in the following winter and spring.

Having decided that our real problem was the cool breeze rather than the lack of hot sunshine, we began to devise a sheltered situation within the garden where the wind would be broken and the air remain relatively quiet. On the lower part of our property where the ground slopes so rapidly downward that the breezes tend to pass overhead, we built a terrace, which is further protected by a windbreak on the side toward the prevailing west wind. On the terrace we built an overhead camellia shelter, not with the customary spacing of 2-inch slats, but rather with four inches open to every two inches of slat. This gives more than twice as much exposure to sunlight as is found satisfactory by many of the more successful camellia amateurs on the east side of the hills. This location and structure provide a pocket that is several degrees warmer than other parts of the garden and where the plants are not subjected to the steady cooling winds.

Even in this more ideal sheltered location camellia varieties must be placed according to their particular needs. Some are on the edge of the shelter where they may take almost full sun. Others may thrive in complete sun. Some of the more tender types, especially among the whites, must be given a little more protection from the sun than is provided by such an open lath structure. This is accomplished by some judiciously pruned vines that grow up to the corners of the pergola.

We do not confine our growing of camellias to this one area because there are some varieties that seem to do well in other parts of our garden. There are a few varieties which we have given up as hopeless, as they demand more heat than we can give them outdoors in our climate in any situation. With those we do grow, we are sometimes content with results that are not nearly as fine as might be obtained in a more favorable climate. Our requirements for a satisfactory camellia for our garden are that it have a good growing habit, forming a well filled-out small tree or bush, have pleasing foliage that with proper feeding and care will retain the good characteristic camellia green, and finally, give a blossom not necessarily tremendous in size but of good form and fine quality. So often good form comes only with large size, but this is not always the case.

It has become obvious that to grow camellias in Berkeley with any degree of success

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\*Long-time Officer and Director of Northern California Camellia Society.

it is necessary to understand the requirements of each variety that is grown. We have by no means completed our tests on the hundreds of well-known and desirable varieties. We have, however, learned enough about several hundred varieties to select out of those the plants that will thrive and bloom under our conditions.

Of course as time goes on, we like to try the new varieties coming on the market. For the benefit of those who live, as we do, on the west side of the hills in the East Bay, this is a report on our findings concerning a few of these newer types. It can't be said that the results are final, nor is it intended to discourage anyone from test-growing the same varieties that may have proved unsatisfactory for us. No information is given here on varieties that have been grown in our garden for less than a full two years, and even that is not long enough to be certain about the performance of the plant.

**BRIDE'S BOUQUET**—The beautiful informal double flowers are certainly lovely enough to justify the name. The blossom varies considerably according to the climate where it is grown. In warmer climates it can have stamens; in Berkeley's cooler climate it has a high center, and in its most beautiful form the "rabbit ears" are quite pronounced. It is not as white as its parent Lotus, having just a bare tinge of creaminess, and occasionally of pink. The plant growth is likely to be a little on the sparse side and the branches tend to be weeping. The foliage is beautiful, showing a marked resemblance to "Lotus," with the leaves a trifle smaller. We consider "Bride's Bouquet" to be a good performer in Berkeley. It is a relatively fast grower, but not a "Jack in the Beanstalk" like its relative, "Masterpiece." It does best in a warm location, but should be protected from continuous sunlight. Blooms start early and it has a long season.

**CLAUDIA PHELPS**—This sport of "Duchess of Sutherland" has been grown for some time in the South but is relatively new in our area. It certainly is one that can be thoroughly recommended for culture in climates like Berkeley's. The flower is rugged. Its beautiful pink and white veined color might lead one to believe that it would be delicate and easily damaged. On the contrary, it is well above average in its ability to take extra doses of sunshine and wind. In Berkeley's climate, the semi-double flower comes with a rosette center with some stamens. In warmer climates, it is equally beautiful with different form, having many stamens. The plant has exceptionally good growth habit, fairly fast, forming a sturdy tree-like plant without pruning. The branches tend to grow upwards, and drop at the ends only by the weight of the flowers. Its foliage is also of the best, and will take considerable amounts of direct sun. I have grown it so that it has the last half of the afternoon sun, without any signs of sunburn. Blooming season is medium to late.

**DONATION**—We are most enthusiastic about this hybrid camellia, the result of crossing *C. saluenensis* x *C. japonica* "Donckelari." Its delicate orchid-pink semi-double flower is wonderful to look upon. It throws blossom buds all along the stem, and what is even better, if these buds are allowed to remain and open, very beautiful long sprays, covered solidly with flowers, will result. Of course, if size of bloom is the aim, then a high percentage of the buds should be removed, and the reward will be equally astonishing in the unusual color and exotic appearance. The plant habit is good, being very similar to "J. C. Williams"—another hybrid of *saluenensis* x *japonica*. It can be trained to a tree-like form with a central stalk, or if desired, very easily made into a handsome bush. It has a full coverage of small leaves very much like "J. C. Williams," perhaps just a little larger. I have been delighted to find that this camellia does so well for us. It will take more than the average amount of sunshine without a sign of foliage burn. For three years we have grown it so that it has sun until about 1 o'clock in the afternoon. From then on it has the broken sunlight of lath coverage of the type described earlier. Blooming season is medium to late.

**FLAMINGO**—The beautiful two-toned semi-double pink "Flamingo" flowers, with petaloids and stamens, sold me on it at first sight. We have, however, been keenly disappointed in the results under our conditions. Perhaps more age on the plant will improve it, although it is already seven feet tall and the top has been clipped to prevent

it from shooting higher. Only a small percentage of the blooms have been of good quality. The buds have formed well and always look promising. After opening they have usually been misshapen and small. The plant grows rapidly, usually sending up a quite rigid and straight central stalk and making a columnar type plant with good stiff growth. The foliage is medium in size and tends to grow convex. The new leaves are fairly flat, but before they take on much age, they curve themselves. Personally I don't feel that foliage of this type is as beautiful as the regular japonica foliage. Up to this point, I cannot recommend "Flamingo" for cooler climates.

**FROSTY MORN**—This is another offspring of "Lotus," and to my way of thinking, one of the finest that Harvey Short has developed—a fully double flower with a high center and of a truly *white* white that justifies its name. The flowers open well for us. They are fairly easily bruised, but far more rugged than "Lotus." The form is similar to the best of the flowers obtained from "Bride's Bouquet," but it is a far more consistent performer, and the fact that it is a purer white makes it more outstanding. In warmer climates it may grow with stamens, but is still a very beautiful form. The plant is a rapid grower, not willowy like "Bride's Bouquet," and can be easily trained into a small tree or bushy shrub as desired.

**FAIREST DAY**—This is another of Harvey Short's seedlings and possibly one of his best. The flower is a single white that might be compared to "Amabilis," but everything "Amabilis" has, "Fairest Day" has more and better. The flower is immense in comparison. It opens out flat with a sunburst of long golden stamens. As far as I can tell, it does just as well in Berkeley's climate as it does in warmer areas. It has a long blooming season, starting early and ending late. The plant habit is among the best. It grows well without staking, and the branches are stiff and uplifted. The foliage is of medium size and will take a great deal of sun—in the middle of summer, from 11:00 o'clock until 3:00 or 3:30. Under those conditions, a few leaves may show a bit of yellowing but no burning. For the camellia enthusiasts who live on the west side of the East Bay hills, or any other place, this variety is highly recommended.

**JESSIE KATZ**—I suppose that the large semi-double flowers with wavy fimbriated petals and rather beautiful watermelon pink color, that we saw in Southern California, caused me to try to grow this sport of "Troubadour." Having pampered it through its third flowering season, we have practically given up trying to make it perform. There hasn't been a single flower that was worth a second glance. The plant is lippy in growth habit. The foliage comes thick enough and is of good color, although small-leaved like many of the sasanquas. It will take considerable sun without burning. We don't believe in moving camellia plants around too much and haven't had it long enough to determine just how much sun it will take. Up to this time it has taken sun until about one o'clock in the afternoon, partial shade thereafter. It is possible that as time goes by, conditions will be found to make it behave well in Berkeley, but at present I cannot recommend it.

**MASTERPIECE**—Another seedling of "Lotus," this seems to have many of the plant characteristics of its parent, but amplified several times. The foliage is the largest of any camellia I know. Many of the leaves will measure three by five inches. It is a very fast grower, and likes to grow upright so much that it forms a beautiful straight trunk that could be used to graft other varieties at a high point to make weeping type camellias. "Masterpiece" itself, grafted on other stock, takes very quickly and heals over rapidly. It has been suggested that it would be splendid understock, a feature which I myself have not yet had time enough to explore. The flowers in the cooler climates like ours usually are fully imbricated formal. These are of fairly large size, but in warmer areas, where they sometimes come as irregular doubles, the size is so great that it is perhaps too large for perfect beauty. For us it is not a heavy bloomer, and many of the buds tend to bull-head. Many of the opened flowers shatter when an attempt is made to pick them. It is not to be recommended for the Berkeley climate.

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## GARDEN DESIGN FOR CAMELLIAS AND COMPANIONS

Robert M. Graves, Landscape Architect, Walnut Creek, California

I assume that there be some among you who don't really know what a landscape architect actually does. First let me give you a brief explanation of how I spend my working day. A landscape architect designs and arranges land and the spaces and objects thereon for the most efficient, safe, healthful, and pleasant human use and enjoyment. On many public, commercial and industrial developments esthetics is an untried if not unrecognized planning factor. On residential landscape design, however, a householder's pride in ownership makes an artistically designed and well planned landscape a must.

It has been my experience that your camellia is by far the most requested or even insisted upon plant among the many commonly used in landscape design. This makes the choice of camellia companion plants of great interest to all gardeners and particularly to the avid camellia fan.

So that we can more effectively discuss the procedure in choosing camellia companions, it is necessary that we have clearly in mind the theory that goes into planting plans in general and camellia plantings in particular.

Basically we can say that camellias are used as specialty or accent plantings, shrub groupings for pleasant surroundings, or in mass plantings by the hobbyist or fancier. We also find that the two basic types of installation are either in containers or directly in the ground. A raised bed would be the happy medium as we will discuss later. For most home landscape developments, camellias are usually planted directly in the ground to provide the shrub groupings and accent plantings.

This is often disastrous when done without proper knowledge of camellia culture or the existing conditions which affect the landscape. Undoubtedly you are aware that many if not the majority of camellia fanciers grow their camellias in tubs or containers.\* Only in order to enhance their residential landscape do they ever plant them directly in the ground.\*\* As far as that goes, camellias can function quite effectively in the landscape even when used in tubs. The point is, of course, that general opinion holds that camellias are happier in containers.\*\*\* For this reason I usually recommend to the home owner that, if possible, he should endeavor to follow this rule as the landscape project is carried out. This is a particularly good idea for the inexperienced home owner who wants camellias but doesn't have adequate plant knowledge to choose the location. If desired, plants can be installed in the ground after the location has proven successful.

There are other reasons, too, why tub planting for camellias is a reasonable approach. These tubs or containers can be used as a design component when several are clustered in a unit, perhaps following some predetermined grid or modular design theme. And, of course, since many of the camellia companions are equally as happy in tubs, the tub cluster takes on new interest by an artistic grouping of both. I have used camellias or other tubbed plants in a linear pattern as a space divider. They can be used to highlight a certain feature in the garden or to screen off some objectionable view. Often the best idea is to put the tubs on castors providing a portable unit to accomplish varied tasks. This way you have the option of "redesigning" the garden when the spirit moves (and consequently, the tubs).

### *Editor's Notes:*

\*Speaking of California.

\*\* Recognizing that less care is entailed, many growers, particularly those with larger collections, feel ground planting to be preferable especially where sizeable plants are concerned.

\*\*\* Long a debatable point and certainly it must be said there are two schools of thought in this regard. Requiring constant attention, container-grown camellias probably receive better care and soil preparation, are more readily subject to control. All other things being equal, ground planting would seem to be preferable because of more uniform moisture and temperature and unhindered root development.

I spoke previously of raised beds as being a happy medium for plant installation. Actually the raised bed does combine many of the best features of tubbed planting and planting directly in the ground. Since the location and shape or size of raised beds is easily controlled, they can take on the character of a shrub border or grouping. By building up retainer boards and properly filling in with good plant soil you can control the drainage as well as the planting medium to provide the best camellia environment. No tiresome and costly excavation is necessary for this process.

Now we can jump from camellia planting theory back to basic plant design in our quest for suitable garden companions. Under physical factors, soil, climate and orientation are of utmost importance in proper camellia culture. It goes without saying that the soil should have a high humus content and be endowed with perfect drainage to be satisfactory. An acidic soil has been proven to be on the camellia growers must list. Correct humus and fertilizer components of the soil must be built in by the grower if he is not lucky enough to have them existing on the site.

Under climatic conditions, various factors of orientation, wind, sun and shade affect the temperature and humidity relationship. As we learn in micro-climatology (the study of small climates) every piece of property, as indeed various sections or areas of one given piece of property, has its own private climate. However slightly this climate may vary from square foot to square foot or from property to property, it is different and camellia locations must be determined in terms of these immediate climatic conditions. Close observation and careful recording of these conditions will make the results much more rewarding than hit or miss techniques.

Plant materials possess numerous esthetic characteristics which we must consider in plant design. These are always considered separately in terms of their relationship not only to other esthetic characteristics of the same plant but in terms of their relationship to other plants proposed in the grouping. The first plant characteristic that we will discuss will be that of plant form. We must design in terms of the plant form or shape as it exists in the early stages and as it changes through maturity to the ultimate plant form. These varied forms can be boiled down to four basic forms including spherical, dome-shaped, conical and columnar plus the many others to be considered when you get into the non-geometrical forms. Line quality in plant materials usually refers to its stem and branching habit or perhaps the leaves have a linear quality. Plant groupings can assume a linear quality themselves by suitable placement.

The characteristic of plant size usually refers to *ultimate* plant size. However, many times gardens are designed to be complete in character after a given number of years, perhaps before some plants reach maturity. The pleasure of the "quick effect" garden can be nullified soon after the first pleasures are realized unless the problem of maintenance has been considered concurrently.

Texture may result from the branching habit of a certain plant with the resultant clumping of leaves. More properly it would refer to the texture as determined by the leaf size, shape and its arrangement on the branches.

Plant color characteristics will generally come from the leaves with the camellia serving as a good example. At times, the stems and branches have a color characteristic all their own but usually only in deciduous plants and then only during the leafless period. Certainly, flower color plays an important part in plant design with the camellia again doing yeoman service as the prime example.

Lastly, mass as a plant characteristic considers the heaviness or lightness of the plant in relation to its neighbors. Mass, itself a composite, can be determined by the form, size, texture and even color of the plant or any combinations of two or more of these separate characteristics.

We have considered the physical and esthetic characteristics that are controlling factors in plant design. We can now make a decision as to what actual plants we can choose as camellia companions, remembering that the criterion is in reality the characteristics of the camellia itself. This is not meant to be a complete list but one offering



the average camellia fan a wide selection to solve any plant design problem.

## SHRUBS

*Ardisia crenata crispa*  
*Aucuba japonica*, *A. j. variegata*  
*Cocculus laurifolius*  
*Daphne odora*, *D. o. marginata*  
*Fatsia japonica*  
*Helleborus niger*  
*Ilex aquifolium*, *I. cornuta burfordii*  
*Itea ilicifolia*, *I. yunnanensis*  
*Kalmia latifolia*  
*Micbelia fuscata*  
*Nandina domestica*  
*Osmanthus fortunei*, *O. fragrans*, *O. ilicifolius*  
*Pieris japonica*, *P. floribunda*  
*Prunus laurocerasus*, *P. l. zabeliana*, *P. lusitanica*  
*Raphiolepis indica rosea*, *R. umbellata ovata*  
*Sarcococca ruscifolia*, *S. hookeriana*  
*Skimmia japonica*, *S. reevesiana*, *S. formannii*  
*Ternstroemia gymnanthera*

## TREES

*Acer palmatum*  
*Fagus sylvatica atropunicea*  
*Franklinia (Gordonia) alatamaha*  
*Cornus florida*, *C. f. rubra*  
*Podocarpus macrophylla*

## GROUNDCOVERS\*

*Acorus gramineus*  
*Ajuga reptans*  
*Pachysandra terminalis*  
*Trachelospermum jasminoides*

## FERNS

*Adiantum pedatum*  
*Alsophila australis*  
*Athyrium filix-foemina*  
*Dicksonia antarctica*  
*Woodwardia fimbriata*

We have discussed physical and esthetic characteristics of plant design. We have selected a group of plants that meet the physical characteristics and that will be compatible esthetically when grouped with camellias. Now in addition we will keep in mind the type of installation that is proposed and we can get into actual plant composition.

Plant design is like any other composition problem such as photography, painting or sculpture. We must select the area or space or width, depth and height of field to be considered. In this case a given plant area, border or grouping will be our limitation. This does not mean that each plant area is a separate composition in itself, but that it is a separate unit of the entire composition and all units must tie together visually by some means. We could call this plant design factor "unity." A lack of this unity tends to cause plant development to be broken up visually and in actuality into many unrelated developments instead of one overall picture.

The factor of simplicity enters in here and is closely related to unity. Simplicity is one of the most desirable of design qualities, in my opinion, and thus is one of the hardest to achieve. In any design problem, simplicity lends dignity plus allowing a real opportunity for a practical and economical job. If a project is not simple we might say that it is involved or busy. This is not a factor which is considered appropriate in a garden area meant for quiet living and entertaining.

We say that a landscape should have the qualities of variety and interest as opposed to a drab, monotonous feeling. At the same time it must maintain a certain balance, equilibrium and harmony or we're "busy" again. This variety, or interest, can normally be achieved by any one or several of the esthetic plant characteristics mentioned earlier in this article. A garden should have visual direction or movement in its design along with the movement provided free of charge by passing breezes. This direction can provide interest and help to accomplish the visual tying together of the entire development.

You can readily see that these plant design factors are actually like a system of checks and balances. The designer must coordinate them to achieve what he believes to be a nice combination of all factors. I use the term "believes" since at this point I feel that design becomes more a matter of personal preference than any cut and dried set of rules to be consulted when a problem arises. In your own design work for the home grounds, consider first the type of development, next combine your camellias with selected companions, bringing into play the plant and composition factors previously discussed. Ask yourself these questions: Can you in all fairness say that your proposed development is pleasing, is it practical or possible, is it functional or does it accomplish what you are trying to do? If so, then you are successful.

\*Where petal blight is a consideration and in fact wherever it is desired to maintain a condition of neatness about the camellia and thus sanitation, ground covers immediately surrounding the plant may present quite a control problem.—Ed.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REPORT ON NEW VARIETIES

Roy T. Thompson, Glendale, California

Any report on new camellia varieties must go back a number of years because of the well-known habit of camellias to move and develop slowly, to show remarkable tendencies to "get off the track" and do erratic things, and also to display very sensitive reactions to small differences in temperature, humidity and geographical factors. A good many things can be learned about a camellia's behavior in its first ten years after introduction, but this will not be the final story in any one locality, to say nothing of the national scene. Because of space and other limitations, however, this report will be confined to new varieties which have been introduced in Southern California during the past ten years. This, of course, will not be a final report, only a preliminary one, pending the ultimate findings for a much longer term.

As a background for this study, certain facts should be borne in mind, chief among them being:

*Testing period assumed.* It is assumed that any new camellia variety which is introduced for public distribution has been bloomed either by its originator or its distributor, or both, for at least three years before its formal introduction. This is the general practice of most developers of new varieties, because of the well known tendency of seedlings to show a certain amount of instability during this period. It has not infrequently occurred that a fine and promising bloom of the first year was not repeated the second year—in fact, would never occur again. There are a few cases on record where a commonplace bloom of the first year was replaced the second and succeeding years by a bloom which was worth keeping. Many responsible originators of new varieties give their candidates for introduction a much longer trial period and this practice is, of course, highly praiseworthy.

*Sensitivity to local influences.* Not all camellia varieties are equally sensitive, but the great majority, both in growth habits and blooms, respond in greater or lesser measure to local changes in temperature, humidity, soil, and water. The pattern of such local behavior has an unmistakable effect on the ultimate rating of a variety nationally. Camellia experience over the past two decades has demonstrated that a considerable number of excellent varieties in the South have not performed well on the Pacific Coast, and *vice versa*. Perhaps the most outstanding, and, for us, the most disappointing example, is *Woodville Red* which, in Southern California is worthless. On the other hand, a variety like *Frizzle White* which, apparently, performs well in every locality and under all conditions, might well be taken as a standard of measurement for all other varieties.

The basic fact involved in this apparent sensitivity which is, probably, responsible for nine-tenths of the "mysterious" behavior of camellias in any given locality, is the weather. Within the well established camellia belt in this country there are innumerable local weather patterns and so sensitive are many camellias to even small weather changes that a given variety will exhibit a baffling perplexity of performance patterns even in one small area. In the city of Glendale, for example, a relatively small area of ground, but made up of a wide variety of conditions, such as open and exposed, sheltered and wooded, windy and protected, warmer and drier, cooler and more moist, *Joshua Youtz* covers a wide range of performance from "top" to all but worthless, and in some instances, this diversity of performance takes place in locations only a few blocks apart where soil, temperature, humidity and rainfall are, to all appearances, the same. Camellias, obviously, are much more sensitive to slight changes in weather than human beings, and probably, than most other plants. This significant fact must always be considered in judging a camellia.\*

\*In Glendale the downdrafts from the many local canyons vary greatly in intensity and duration, as well as in temperature. A forty mile gale in La Crescenta may be blowing without causing the faintest stir of air in Verdugo Woodlands. Stranger still, the eastern half of the Verdugo Woodlands canyon may be having a strong wind while the western half is completely quiet. Similar conditions are reported from the Altadena and Pasadena areas.

*Leisureliness in developing a final pattern.* Anyone who has grown camellias, both established varieties and seedlings, over a period of ten years or more has become aware of the fact that they are never in a hurry; they take their time about living, growing, and revealing their many characteristics, as though they were well aware that they have a life expectancy of three or four hundred years, so why hurry? Hence, the study of any one variety for just a few seasons will not be likely to reveal a satisfactory picture of its true character.

Some of the varieties reported on here have been in general circulation only a short time while others have had only a limited circulation among collectors. Nevertheless, any data obtainable, however fragmentary, has been included, even though it may be overruled by later findings. Some omissions have been made because of inconclusive data. Quite a good many varieties which caused collectors to have high blood pressure at the time they were introduced now appear in a different light; time and the experience of widely scattered growers have given them a lower rating than was at first assumed. An example is *Bride's Bouquet*, which, a few years ago was touted as the world's greatest white and was madly sought after. Here is an example of the danger inherent in judging a camellia variety by a few blooms rather than by the camellia's total character, for this variety turned out to be a rather weak, unsatisfactory grower. True, it does produce a few magnificent blooms in a season, but cannot be depended upon to produce them regularly and in all areas. In fact, only a very small percentage of the new varieties which were ardently sought after when first announced have remained in the highest classification.

Only japonicas have been included in this list; reticulatas, sasanquas, and other species will be reported on at a later date. A relatively large number of varieties have been included, first, because this list covers, roughly, the introductions of the last decade, and second, because the wider the base of investigation the more accurate the final judgment of those at the top will be. A smaller list would not give as true a perspective.

The following ratings are based on the complete character of the camellia, plant and growth habits as well as flowers:

(Note on judging scale: "A" represents the finest camellias, judged not only by their flowers, but by their growth habits and appearance. "B" represents the many fine camellias which are unmistakably worth propagating and owning, but which, for one reason or other, cannot be given the highest rating. Make no mistake about it, the camellias in this group are choice ones. "C" represents the group which cannot be recommended, which discriminating collectors have already discarded.)

B	Ann Miller	B	Edwin H. Folk
B-	Arrabella	B	Eleanor Haygood
A	Beau Harp	A	Elizabeth LeBey
A-	Beau Harp Var. (Dr. John Bell)	B	Emmett Barnes
B	Berenice Boddy	B	Emmett Pfingstl
C	Betty Theisen	B	Flamingo
B-	Big Beauty	B	Flowerwood
B	Billie McCaskill	C	Frank Gibson
B-	Bride's Bouquet	A	Frizzle White
C	Carolyn Tuttle	A	Frosty Morn
B-	Casilda	B-	Gen. George Patton
B	Catherine McCown	C	Gibson Girl
B	Charlotte Bradford	A-	Gov. Earl Warren
B	Cho-Cho-San	B	Grace Bunton
C	Cinderella	A	Guest of Honor
A	Clara Green	A	Guilio Nuccio
A-	C. M. Wilson	B	Helen K
B-	Conrad Hilton	A	Jessie Katz
B	Coral Pink Lotus	B-	James Allan
A	Coronation	B	J. J. Pringle-Smith
B	Dave Strother	B	J. J. Whitfield
B	Dr. Tinsley	B	Joseph Pfingstl
A-	Drama Girl	B-	Joshua Youtz
B	Eddie G. Wheeler	B-	Katherine Nuccio

B	Kerlerec	A-	Pink Clouds
A	Kramer's Supreme	C	Pink Shadows
B-	Lady Kay	A	Pride of Descanso
B-	Lady Lucille	B-	Prince Frederick William
A	Lawrence Walker	B-	Princess Lavender
B-	Lena Jackson	B-	Princess Murat
B	Letitia Schrader	B-	Primavera
B-	Lookaway	A	Reg Ragland
A-	Louise McClay Var.	A-	R. L. Wheeler
B	Margaret McCown	B-	Rosemary Kinser
C	Margarete Hertrich	B	Ruth Boyer
C	Marjorie Magnificent	C	Scented Treasure
C	Mary Charlotte	B	Seventh Heaven
B-	Masquerade	B	Shiro Chan
A-	Masterpiece	B	S. Peter Nyce
B	Mathoriana Supreme	B	Spring Sonnet
A-	Mattie O'Reilly	B	Spring Triumph
B	Max Goodley	A	St. Andre
B-	Melody Lane	B-	Strawberry Blonde
A-	Mollie Moore Davis	B	Sunset Glory
B	Monte Carlo	B	Thelma Dale
B-	Morning Glow	B	Thomas D. Pitts
B-	Mrs. Bertha Harms	B	Tomorrow
B	Mrs. Howard Asper	C	Virginia Davis
B	Mrs. Lyman Clark	B	Virgin's Blush
B	Mrs. Freeman Weiss	B	Warrior
B-	Mrs. Shepardson	B	Wildwood
B	Nina Avery	B	Yvonne Tyson
B-	Pearl Maxwell		

## A REPORT ON SOME NEW VARIETIES *(Continued from Page 6)*

157 **PINK CLOUDS**—Still another "Lotus" seedling. When we first saw the flower in Los Angeles—an irregular double with some stamens, blush pink in color with some pink mottling—it certainly was a beautiful thing. For two seasons we have treated it kindly but got practically no flowers. The buds didn't even set, and those that did were runts, and nothing more can be said! The plant itself has good growth habit. The leaves show a resemblance to "Lotus" but have just a little more ruffle that makes for a more beautiful foliage. It is an erect grower and makes a shapely small tree. Those who don't care to waste their time experimenting, and want to grow camellias in East Bay's cool climate, should steer away from this variety.

**R. L. WHEELER**—The flowers of "R. L. Wheeler" have certainly won a place in our garden. Here it grows in a form similar to "Elegans" (Chandler), with a rosette center and no stamens. The flowers take far more than the average amount of abuse when grown in the open. We have grown it only two years, and the plant is now about three feet high, takes sun seventy-five percent of the day without any foliage burn, and far more astounding, the flowers are not easily burned by sunlight. After a heavy rain and windstorm, it may be one of the few undamaged flowers in the open garden. It has good erect growth habit with stiff side branches. The foliage is about average japonica-type but with more than average durability in wind and sun. This camellia deserves a place in the gardens of those located close to the Bay. For us it is a late season bloomer.

298 **SIMEON**—The semi-double pink flower comes very large when grown in warm climates. For us it is medium in size and fairly rugged. It is a late bloomer and one of the nice things about it is that it starts blooming when many of the japonicas are on the last half of their flowering season. The plant grows fairly rapidly and is inclined to be willowy, but can be pruned into a well-shaped tree. It will take more than the average amount of sunlight without burning either the foliage or flowers. Our plant sets buds freely but many fail to open completely.

**WE, THE PEOPLE, VOTE FOR.....**

E. A. Combatalade,\* Sacramento, California

For 33 years the Camellia Society of Sacramento, at its annual show, has presented to the people of this Camellia Capital a spectacular display of camellia blooms. This, our 33rd show, the climax to the Third Annual Camellia Festival, played host to better than 30,000 people who were thrilled by some 8,000 blooms.

At each show we have had judges recognized by the American Camellia Society to help us select the best flower of the show and the best in each of the 8 classifications. Just as you have heard at your show, we have heard at ours, people disagreeing with the judges although admitting that the flowers selected were always spectacular and beautiful. This year we decided to find out which flowers our guests, the people who make our show possible, like best. To this end, we devised a ballot, a 3" x 5" card, which read:

**PLEASE**

Help us select the 3 most popular Camellia Blooms displayed at this show.

I vote for:

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

*Comments*

Thank you . . .

The Camellia Society of Sacramento

5,789 of these cards were distributed as the visitors entered. Each person was asked to assist by telling us the three blooms he liked best and to place his marked ballot in the appropriate box. As the people left the show, we again asked them if they had filled out their cards and returned them.

We received 2,958 cards, which of course was a tremendous response and—as the public opinion experts would say—gave us an exceedingly fine cross-section of the opinion of our 30,000 guests.

After the ballots were counted and tabulated we realized there was a considerable gap in number of votes between the fifteenth and sixteenth flower. Therefore we are presenting for your inspection the following tabulation of the fifteen blooms receiving the most votes and some additional statistics we hope you will find interesting.

1957 SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SHOW  
FAVORITE CAMELLIA VOTE  
Fifteen Flowers Receiving Highest Total Votes

Total Votes	Variety	First Place		Second Place		Third Place	
		Total	Rank	Total	Rank	Total	Rank
796	C. M. Wilson	397	1	211	1	188	1
469	Magnoliaflora	195	2	113	5	161	2
390	Elegans	121	5	150	2	119	4
384	Pink Perfection	155	3	131	4	98	6
374	Debutante	109	6	139	3	126	3
342	Mathotiana	138	4	103	6	101	5
275	Herme	95	7	97	7	83	7
249	Purity	79	8	92	8	78	9
231	Alba Plena	72	9 (Tie)	78	9	81	8
192	Anita	60	11	64	10	69	10
177	Gigantea	72	10 (Tie)	50	15	55	12
166	Te Deum	59	12	60	11	47	14
161	Ville de Nantes	44	15	53	12 (Tie)	64	11
157	Lady Kay	53	13	53	13 (Tie)	51	13
137	Cinderella	46	14	53	14 (Tie)	38	15

\*Past President of the Camellia Society of Sacramento and currently acting as President of Camellia Festival, the great camellia booster organization in that city.—Ed.

2,958	cards returned with first-place votes
267	different flowers received votes
250	different japonicas received votes
10	different reticulatas received votes
206	flowers received first-place votes
208	flowers received second-place votes
230	flowers received third-place votes
190	japonicas received first-place votes
192	japonicas received second-place votes
214	japonicas received third-place votes
362	cards with comments:
357	commendatory
5	negative

We thought you would be as interested as we were in some of the 357 favorable comments which our friends had the urge to write. Representative of the comments are these:

"Most beautiful flowers on earth."

"An asset to our city and a chance for us poor people to enjoy and relish the better things of life—and free."

"The camellia is like a beautiful lady."

"The most beautiful show I have ever seen."

Some of our out-of-town guests had this to say:

"My visit to this show made my first trip to your city perfect enjoyment."

"Just came from New York. Never saw anything like it before."

"Best I have ever seen, worth the trip from Oregon."

"This show is wonderful to me. I'm from Canada and never saw a camellia until a few weeks ago. I think they are just as beautiful as you expect a flower to be and seldom find."

"Display wonderful."—from Savannah, Georgia.

We of the Camellia Society of Sacramento are highly pleased by this response. Those of you who have studied the above table recognize that to compile these results was rather a large job. Each of the cards presented was checked against the 1956 edition of "The Camellia—Its Culture and Nomenclature" for proper names and, friends, *that* was quite a job as the spelling was sometimes questionable and the names of many varieties are rather hard to pronounce thereby leading to some spectacular spelling.

To count the ballots, we solicited the assistance of Warden Robert Heinze of our nearby Folsom State Prison. Mr. Heinze offered the assistance of Mr. Walter S. Robinson, Accounting Officer, who selected some inmates and supervised the tabulation of the cards. To them we are deeply grateful for a job well done.

It is interesting that the best flower of the show selected by the judges was *Rosea Superba*. It received 2 first-place, 4 second-place, and 10 third-place votes by our lay judges. It was a very unusual specimen of this variety. C. M. Wilson—far and away the popular choice—was voted by the judges as the second-best flower of the show. *Elegans* was the best tray of 3, Fred Sanders the best tray of 6, *Debutante* the best tray of 11, Shiro Chan the best plant in container.

For the past four years, we have had a section for *Reticulatas*. The best *Reticulata* in the show this year was *Noble Pearl*, a truly magnificent bloom. It received the most votes among the *Reticulatas* having 39 for first, 21 for second, and 27 for third.

In our camellia show we have an outstanding arrangements section. There was a total of 101 votes for first, second, and third choices taken from the arrangements section, although the ballot asked for votes on "the most popular camellia bloom." This testifies as to the quality of the arrangements.

We were somewhat surprised that the old standbys are still the people's favorite. If you would like to know how the good people of Sacramento rated your favorite, we will of course be very happy to tell you.

Let me take this opportunity to invite you to our 34th Annual Show, March 8 and March 9, 1958.

## SUMMER CARE OF THE CAMELLIA

William C. Bryant, "Bryant's Camellia Patch," Sacramento, California

Many, many articles have been written under the above title—all good and useful—but at times over the head of the person an article such as this should reach. You people who have for years been stricken with "Camelliaitis" and thus "know the ropes" please turn this page and go on reading something more interesting.

We here at the "Camellia Patch" know from past experience that, in our part of the country at least, nothing will take the place of just plain *water*. How you water and when, are the two things we consider most essential.

We never water with a teacup. We never water the foliage when the sun is shining on it. If you must water your plants when the sun is on them, use a soaker on the root area. Your camellias have had their roots wet all winter, and the need of water in the summer months is far greater.

You know as well as we do how sun and wind can pull water out of your soil; and it is good practice to try to keep the moisture balance at a point where your plants never become thirsty. By soaking your soil to a depth of at least twelve inches during the real hot months of summer, you can develop a better root system.

This is the most important time of the year to really take care of your plants. At this writing you should be able to see the small buds on your plants that next spring will take those blue ribbons at the "Show". To let these small buds become dry at this time will mean no show blooms.

Another practice we have, is to never let our plants go to bed at night after a hot day without a drink. Every plant is hosed off with a fine spray from a fog nozzle. About every three weeks a syphon is cut into our hose line and a very mild dose of liquid fertilizer is sprayed on the foliage. Our plants in the ground do not show any effect of this slight feeding. But the ones which we grow in containers really perform.

In this "tin can age" we have found it pays off to get our plants out of cans into wooden containers as soon as possible. The sun shining on a tin can will burn roots and kill a plant as quickly as if it had been put in an oven.

To those of you who will leave your garden in the care of the boy down the block while you go on vacation—play it safe. Mulch your plants with peat or leaf mold and soak them well before you leave—just in case Junior gets mixed up in a baseball game and forgets all about watering until the day before you come home.

It is a good practice to keep your eyes open for bugs. Grasshoppers and earwigs are very busy at this season, so do not overlook this menace.

Right now the temperature is 103 degrees, and the humidity a mere 15. Every hydrant on the place is on. How about *you*? Have *you* turned on *your* sprinklers?

## INTER-SOCIETY RELATIONS COMMITTEE *(Continued from Page 3)*

A complete list of the local clubs and societies joining on this basis will be shown in the A. C. S. 1957 YEARBOOK. It is also planned to hold a forum of representatives of the local organizations on the occasion of the Annual Meeting in New Orleans next January, for the purpose of a broad discussion of plans for practical and helpful co-operation. Incidentally, anyone planning to attend the Annual Meeting should make reservations early, as it is understood there will be one of the largest attendances of all time. Headquarters will be at the Roosevelt Hotel and those desiring reservations should write to:

Mr. Ernest A. Judice  
2113 No. Claiborne Ave.  
New Orleans 16, La.

specifying date of arrival and departure and the type of accommodations desired. The convention will extend from January 30th through February 1st.

## GULF COAST REPORT ON SOME NEW VARIETIES

\*Hoyt W. Lee, Mobile, Alabama

The following is a brief report on ten of the better new varieties as determined under our growing conditions here in Mobile. All plants are judged on the basis of their performance over a representative period of time as grown in the ground in the typical Southern manner:

**EMMETT BARNES**—This is the finest semi-double white that I have seen, being a very large, soft white blossom that blooms early—about October 15-January 15 here. It is a medium fast grower with very attractive foliage. Highly desirable.

**ETHEL DAVIS**—A clear pink, loose peony seedling of the finest quality, produced by Ornamental Nursery here in Mobile. The plant is a very fast grower and prolific mid-season (Dec.-Jan.) bloomer, developing very large flowers over a long period of time.

**GERTRUDE MURRAY**—This new white variety is sure to grow in popularity. The blooms are magnificent—very large with fine texture, full peonyform, blooming about mid-season. The plant is a slow grower but upright and beautifully shaped with willowy, small leaves resembling a hybrid.

**LAURA WALKER**—It was my good fortune to see the first bloom of this variety which, incidentally, took top honors at a show in Charleston, S. C. The bloom is semi-double bright red with many petaloids in the center, very large (5 in.) and comes fairly early (November). It is most attractive and a must for every collector. The plant is hardy and upright in growth habit.

**MRS. D. W. DAVIS**—An immense (5 to 6½ in.) light blush-pink semi-double, this is the finest of its kind. The blooms are positively sensational and almost a sure winner at any show. The plant is hardy with large foliage, although this variety is not easily grafted. Rather a late bloomer (Jan.-Feb.).

**PINK CHAMPAGNE**—This variety could not have had a more descriptive name. A medium-large delicate, soft pink incomplete double, that blooms a bit late (Jan.-Feb.). This is another sensation. Although a bit on the delicate side, we find that it blooms well in the open along the Gulf Coast and the plant itself is very hardy.

**SIMEON**—Although this seedling was only one among many great ones from the famous Clower Gardens, Gulfport, Miss., it has developed a host of admirers. A delicate rose semi-double, it has very good size (5 to 6 inches) and blooms about mid-season (Dec.-Jan.). It is a wonderful grower and a sure show-winner.

**THELMA DALE**—Although not so new as some of the others, this is an exceptionally fine camellia of a most unusual and beautiful shade of phlox pink, with magnificent high, incomplete to irregular-double form and good size for that type of flower (4 to 5 in.). The plant is disease-free and very hardy, with somewhat spreading growth and good foliage. Blooming season is middle to late (Dec. thru Feb.).

**TOMORROW**—This fine new seedling from Tik-Tok Nursery, Thomasville, Ga., seems to have everything. Illges Medal Winner for 1957, this camellia has performed outstandingly everywhere in the South during a rather difficult season. A very large, high-centered incomplete double of rather tiered form, this soft light red camellia is wonderfully dependable and blooms over a long season (Nov. thru Feb.). The flower is a beautiful, eye-catching shade, the plant a very fast grower that propagates easily. What more could one want?

**WILDWOOD**—Last but not least, this is a wonderful camellia that is a good performer and here to stay. The flower is very large, an incomplete double of light pink color. Mid-season bloomer and a rather slow grower.

\*Past President, American Camellia Society.

### COVER FLOWER

*Nellie Eastman* is a chance seedling developed about 1947, and a strikingly-variegated, mid-season-to-late, long-blooming, peonyform flower of medium size with a high center, having markings somewhat like *Bella Romana*. Its growth is upright and very compact.



## I SOMETIMES WONDER

Richard C. Brown, Sacramento

I sometimes wonder what we want in a camellia—some people buy it for the particular variety's bloom appeal, some acquire it based on report or reputation and others just buy or graft the variety because it is one they do not have—I am guilty of all phases of collectoritis. However, through this one gains valuable experience as to the desirability of a camellia. Because of such experience and consequent personal opinions, there will be occasions when we do not agree. Thus the opinions which follow, as to the new varieties I have observed in recent years, are solely my own.

As I said before, the appeal to the individual of the beauty of a particular flower is probably the most dominant factor—whether it be color, form or the size of bloom.

But there are many factors which constitute a good camellia that I should like to mention and which I feel are important. Before we go into such a discussion, please remember that one variety may perform nobly in one area and be "a dog" in another area, which should be kept in mind later when we discuss certain new introductions.

Choice of color and form are matters of purely individual preference but when we consider the substance of the flower, how it holds on to the plant, if it shatters when it falls, these are universal earmarks of a good camellia. You may have observed that at most camellia shows the best flower in the show (and I shall even go so far as to say those that are considered for Best Flower) is usually the "king size" type. To me size is not necessarily an important essential—certainly it does take the eye—but often we find a "Lena Jackson" or a "Chrysanthemum Petal" which, though of medium size, is so waxlike perfect that it is difficult not to consider perfection and forget "oddity."

In choosing the better of the recent introductions, let us also consider the habit of growth—is it pendulous, willowy, spreading, upright or what have you? They all have their place, depending on their use, as a specimen, a plant for espalier or hanging basket. Then, too, is it a leggy thing or a dense grower; is the foliage attractive; is it self-grooming? These and many other requirements often lead one to throw out those that do not qualify. I wish I could tell you of one that has all of these wonderful attributes. Frankly, I doubt if there is one that adds up to one hundred per cent. But these are some of the things we look for in selecting a camellia, and though it may not have many of these fine qualities, we buy it just the same. In giving you my observations of a dozen or so of the recent introductions (and goodness knows how many "newies" we have had in the last ten years), I should like to say some of these have performed well in Sacramento and some should stay elsewhere.

"Beau Harp" is so outstanding as a king size bloom, as is its sport "Dr. John D. Bell," that no one should be without either. The one fault is its awkward, tall growth which can be handled by "tip pruning" only. This can best be done by taking a leaf or two with each flower that should be cut. The growth habit is leggy, but after a few years the tip pruning forces lateral growth and a fine-foliaged, dense plant results. It is an excellent keeper; it falls in one piece, and holds on the plant for days and days.

In this same category is "Elizabeth LeBey" and "Masterpiece"; both of these fine producers of great flowers require the same cultural treatment with pruning shears as "Beau Harp" and "Dr. John D. Bell." "Elizabeth LeBey" and "Masterpiece" hold well on the plant, do not shatter when they fall and how could anyone ask for a more spectacular leafed plant than "Masterpiece"?

Among our favorites of the new camellias is "Masquerade," and its sport "Marguerite Tourje." Both are excellent growers of the "Elegans" type, spreading but dense, and bloom over a long period of time. They bud up heavily and should be disbudded to reap the real spring harvest of outstanding blooms.

One of the newer introductions that comes nearer to the perfect camellia than any heretofore mentioned is "Reg Ragland." Anyone who has seen this gorgeous Red or Red and White, large semi-double, must agree that this is one of the best new varieties

to come out in recent years. Its flowers hold on well, do not shatter, and its growth is upright, vigorous, and dense. It is truly a great camellia.

Speaking of Reds—how could anyone pass up "Tomorrow"? One of the newest to come into commerce, it has taken awards nearly everywhere it has been shown. The flower has all the qualities we look for and its substance is heavy. It grows upright, is vigorous and dense. In many sections of the West Coast, "Tomorrow" is rose pink but in the Interior Valleys it is a fine red.

Another fine camellia of the general form of bloom of "Tomorrow" but more open in growth and larger leaved is "Guest of Honor." It is highly recommended for its bloom.

Of all the large and very large camellias that have come to our attention in recent years probably the most spectacular is "R. L. Wheeler." While it is variable in form, its tremendous blooms and its excellent growth habit will stop anyone who passes by. It, too, holds well on the plant and does not shatter when it has done its job.

When choosing a new introduction, one thing I consider to be of importance is whether the flower falls in one piece or shatters. The reason for this is that with the battle we have had with camellia flower blight or petal rot, a flower that shatters requires the picking up of each petal. I do not believe that any flower, however beautiful, is worth the work and trouble that shattering blooms provoke. I have several in mind which are comparatively new—"Hooper Connell" and "Mrs. Tingley." Both of these shatter quickly and completely and therefore in my opinion are good for one thing—root stock.

There have been so many new introductions hit the market in recent years that it would require many pages just to list them, let alone give observations as to their good and bad qualities. I anticipate that elsewhere in the *Camellia Bulletin* others will have discussed some of the new camellias. However, one cannot avoid mentioning a few of the medium or normal-sized varieties that are worthwhile. "Flamingo" is an eye-catcher with its beautiful pale pink, semi-double twisting petals and its very fine flaring yellow stamens, and sometimes petaloids are mixed with the stamens. It is a fine, vigorous, upright grower with small, roundish, dark green leaves that distinguish it.

"Lena Jackson" is an outstanding pale pink formal that has a waxiness in its bloom not often seen in camellias. Its growth habit is vigorous, bushy and it has a rather small leaf that makes it distinctive. This is highly recommended.

Speaking of wax-like blooms, those who have not yet seen the Reticulata "Chrysanthemum Petal" have a real treat in store. It has light pink, fluted petals that are so wax-like the flower almost seems artificial. It is a rose form to formal double. While it does not compare in size to many other Reticulatas, it is very worthwhile and does very well in this area.

For many years there has been a need for a real fine solid red and in my opinion we soon will have it. I have not yet seen the plant but the flowers of "Kramer's Supreme" are so outstanding that I am sure anyone who sees it will want this beauty. It is a very large Peonyform, true red with stamens interspersed between each row of petals—a real knockout. It is my understanding that this variety will be released in the fall of 1957.

Another camellia which will be released this fall is the rumored 1957 All-America Selections winner "Buddha." This Reticulata is rose pink with very large, irregular, erect, wavy petals. It is an irregular semi-double, very vigorous in its growth, and a worthwhile addition to the other Yunnan Reticulatas.

It seems that one could go on and on speaking of fine new introductions and certainly such outstanding camellias as "Frosty Morn," "Drama Girl," "Pink Clouds," "Joshua Youtz" and "Guilio Nuccio" may not be omitted from any such list; all are excellent and highly recommended.

You have often heard it suggested that we should buy camellias only when in bloom, which is excellent advice, but when a plant is bought from a nursery out of town, it is often not possible to do so. In such an event, do not judge the bloom the first year





It is significant of the changing tastes of the camellia world that the 1957 Herrich Award of the Southern California Camellia Society was given to *Billie McCaskill*. Ten years ago such a choice could not have been made for the simple reason that *Billie McCaskill* does not produce a flower of maximum size. The emphasis seems to be shifting from mere size (as a pre-requisite to excellence) to other qualities. This new variety is small to medium in size but it has delicacy and grace, and to most people who see it, individuality and style. That an award of this kind can be made is a most hopeful sign that the camellia world is growing up and is able to see something besides size. Size will always be an important consideration in the evaluation of a camellia variety, but this award indicates that it is no longer the determining factor.

In taking a poll of camellia opinion to use as a basis for the article "Southern California Report on New Varieties" which appears elsewhere in this issue, I was impressed by the considerable number of varieties which had, since their introduction, fallen far below their original evaluation. For example, when *Marjorie Magnificent* was new and hard to come by, fabulous prices were paid for one year grafts by persons who, today, have eliminated it from their collections. The reason for this change in evaluation is two-fold: *Marjorie Magnificent* was among the first of the blush-type camellias which, at that time, were a great novelty. But a veritable flood of blush camellias came on the market and tended to weaken the prestige of the earlier ones. In the case of *Marjorie Magnificent*, another factor played a part: This camellia was "over-named," that is, the name suggested a flower much larger and more impressive than the variety actually produced. Another factor, probably, is that, like many Southern camellias, it doesn't do as well in the relatively dry climate of Southern California as in its native Gulf Coast habitat. I don't think it an exaggeration to say that only a small handful of new varieties—maybe five per cent—actually live up to the reputation they enjoy at the time they are first announced.

The American Camellia Society has added two regional directors to its Governing Board, one for Maryland and one for the District of Columbia. This action is more significant than it seems at first glance for it indicates a good sized extension of the "camellia belt" in a northerly direction; it indicates that camellia territory is creeping north along the Atlantic coast, not accidentally or sporadically but with apparent permanence. There is a growing colony of camellia growers in the New York City area, particularly on Long Island, where camellias have been grown outdoors in sheltered situations for several years.

(Continued overleaf)

it flowers for you. Seldom does a camellia immediately perform normally when moved from one part of the country to another. In a year or two it will settle down to your area's environment and then be true to size and form. With this in mind you will not be disappointed in these fine new introductions that you have or will purchase this year.

Californians noted with deep regret the death of Sam Harn last April. He was for many years the Secretary of the American Camellia Society and on his trip to the coast a few years ago made friends wherever he went. His type of geniality was sincere and genuine, not the kind which is assumed.

Reticulata notes: Mr. Sigmund Katz, Covington, Louisiana, reports in the April *American Camellia Quarterly* that six varieties of reticulatas growing in the open ground and exposed to temperatures as low as 22 degrees produced blooms. . . . A recent release from the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. shows pictures of reticulatas blooming under glass in that area, and states that, in an exhibit of these blooming plants, they "created a great deal of interest." One of the pictures shows Mrs. Eisenhower looking at the flowers.

The sensitiveness of camellias to weather changes having to do with temperature, humidity, and light, prevents camellia growers from getting bored, for no two seasons are ever the same. This spring in Southern California has been most unusual in that we have had a preponderance of cool, cloudy weather with much drizzle and dampness. Camellias have responded to this with unusually lush growth, making gardens where they are planted a beautiful sight to see. Camellia foliage is beautiful the year round but the fresh green of new leaves this year, especially on the larger plants, makes a memorable sight.

A camellia garden is to be established at the State and County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, and several varieties of reticulatas are being readied in the lath-house. The Arboretum specializes in rare and exotic plants, all of which are labelled for the convenience of the public. There are two Dawn Redwoods, for example, about fifteen feet in height, which, in their fresh green feathery foliage, are about as thrilling and satisfying a sight as a garden lover will ever see. The Dawn variety was brought from the interior of China less than ten years ago and is said to be a much older variety than either of our California kinds. The Arboretum is open Saturday afternoons and Sundays from 10:30 to 4:00, and admission is free.

The best thing to do with a sick, ailing, stunted, or damaged camellia is to throw it out and forget it. We Americans are naturally inclined to nurse, coddle, and restore any broken, weak, or suffering animal or plant, and this motive is most laudable. Except with camellias, because (1) you can get a new and vigorous one started in less time and in a few years it will have outgrown the sick plant by many times; and (2) for some reason or other a camellia which has lost ground or become stunted never does get fully back to normal vigor. There will, of course, be a few exceptions to this rule; it wouldn't be like camellias to follow any rule one hundred per cent.

The Third Annual Summer Picnic of the Pacific Camellia Society will be held at Descanso Gardens July 20. Members are invited to bring as many guests as they wish, and children are also welcome. In the past two summers this event has proved to be a most welcome reunion, between camellia seasons, for camellia people and it indicates that camellias are not our only interest. Admission will be \$1.25 for adults and 50c for children.

It is a pleasure to report the recovery of Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor, known locally as John Taylor, from a serious abdominal infection which started last fall and, on his trip through the South in February, caused him serious trouble and much suffering. For a time he was a very sick man, but the infection has been halted and Dr. Taylor is gaining strength rapidly.