

*John Cooney*

# 18th Annual Atlanta Camellia Show

February 23rd and 24th, 1963



Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cannon

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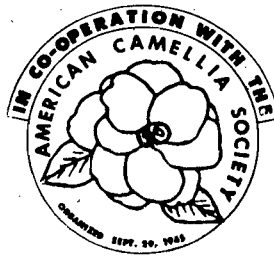
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# *Eighteenth Annual* Atlanta Camellia Show

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240 Peachtree Street, N.W.  
February 23-24, 1963

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Mrs. M. J. Watts, Sr.  
Mrs. Boynton Cole, Asst. to the Chairmen

## **Greetings from the President of the American Camellia Society**



It is with a great deal of pleasure that I extend to you official greetings from American Camellia Society. We feel honored that your shows are always staged in strict cooperation with rules of American Camellia Society.

There is something about the show held in Atlanta from year to year that is not found in all shows. It is a great inspiration to witness such a display of the finest camellias and the newest varieties.

To see one of these shows is to come back for another.

Mrs. Farmer and I consider it a great privilege to be with you February 23 and 24, 1963.

Sincerely,

C. W. FARMER  
*President,*  
American Camellia Society

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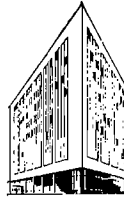
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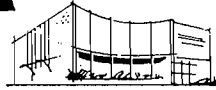
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# 1963 Atlanta Camellia Show

Atlanta Merchandise Mart  
240 Peachtree Street, N.W.  
February 23, 24, 1963

## HORTICULTURAL SCHEDULE

### DIVISION I—Camellia Japonica Buff Entry Cards

#### Classification by Variety

*\*Grown Outside, Unprotected in Fulton; DeKalb and Cobb Counties, Georgia.*

#### CLASS A—Single Entries

There will be a separate class for each variety.

CLASS B—Collection of five (5) blooms, one each of five different named varieties. Only one collection may be entered by each exhibitor. To be shown in a container to be furnished by the show committee.

CLASS C—Collection of three (3) blooms of the same variety, one collection of each variety may be entered by each exhibitor. To be shown in containers to be furnished by the show committee.

### DIVISION II—Camellia Japonica White Entry Cards

#### Classification by Variety

*\*Grown Outside, Unprotected anywhere other than Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb Counties, Georgia*

#### CLASS A—Single Entries

There will be a separate class for each variety.

CLASS B—Collection of five (5) blooms, one each of five different named varieties. Only one collection may be entered by each exhibitor. To be shown in a container to be furnished by the show committee.

CLASS C—Collection of three (3) blooms of the same variety, one collection of each variety may be entered by each exhibitor. To be shown in containers to be furnished by the show committee.

### DIVISION III—Camellia Japonica Green Entry Cards

#### Classification by Variety

#### *Grown Inside*

#### CLASS A—Single Entries

There will be a separate class for each variety.

CLASS B—Collection of five (5) blooms, one each of five different named varieties. Only one collection may be entered by each exhibitor. To be shown in a container to be furnished by the show committee.

CLASS C—Collection of three (3) blooms of the same variety, one collection of each variety may be entered by each exhibitor. To be shown in containers to be furnished by the show committee.

### DIVISION IV—Gold Entry Cards Reticulatas

There will be a separate class for each variety, single entries in each class.  
(Reticulatas may be shown without wood or leaves)

*\*Entries grown outside unprotected are defined as blooms from plants that have been grown in the open without any protection other than that furnished by an unheated slat house where the slats have no covering whatever over them nor any substance between them.*

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## DIVISION V—Gold Entry Cards

Species other than Japonica and Reticulata  
(Includes Sasanqua, hybrids, etc.)

There will be a separate class for each variety of each species. Single entry in each class.

## DIVISION VI—Gold Entry Cards

### Seedlings

New seedling camellias not as yet offered for sale by anyone. Open to all exhibitors. One or more specimens of the same seedling may be exhibited as one entry in this class. Exhibitor must indicate whether grown outside or inside.

## DIVISION VII

### Non-Competitive Exhibits

For Amateur Growers. Specimens, Collections and Special Exhibits.

## DIVISION VIII

### Commercial Exhibits

For Commercial Growers, Specimens, Collections and Exhibits. Reservation for space must be in advance.

## DIVISION IX

### Educational Display

By Invitation Only.

## HORTICULTURE JUDGING POINTS

### *Standard of Excellence*

#### *Specimens*

Form .....	20
Color and Markings.....	20
Size According to Variety.....	20
Texture and Substance.....	20
Condition and Distinctiveness.....	15
Foliage .....	5
	<hr/>
	100

### *Standard of Excellence*

#### *Collections*

Size and Color.....	25
General Quality .....	25
Condition .....	25
Appropriate to Schedule, Naming, etc.....	25
	<hr/>
	100

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## DIVISION X

### ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS

THEME: Camellias in the Space Age

#### CLASS 1. SEATTLE FAIR "SPACE NEEDLE"

- A. An arrangement featuring "Space Needle"—Symbol of the Fair, using one or two camellias.
- B. An arrangement featuring Camellias, using "Space Needle" as an accessory. Five or more camellias to be used.

#### CLASS 2. "Floating" City of the Year 2000—The magic mysteries of space. Use extra large variety of camellias.

#### CLASS 3. "Fine Arts Pavilion"

- A. Old masters—Rembrandt, Titian, Goya, Renoir, Gauguin and any others. Arrangement interpretive in spirit.
- B. Contemporary Painters—Interpretation shall express the spirit of painting.

#### CLASS 4. "Thrill Rides"

An interpretation of any ride of amusement found at a "Fair".

#### CLASS 5. "Nations Represented"

From Ivory Coast to The Republic of China, Sweden, Thailand, British and Canadian, Yugoslavia, France, Japan, USSR, etc.

The arrangements should be adaptations in spirit of nation chosen to depict.

#### CLASS 6. "Candlelight"

Invitation Class—Non-competitive.

Camellias arranged with candlelabrum combined with any other material, exhibited on a pedestal.

These arrangements made by members of The Flower Arrangers' Club of Georgia.

NOTE: 5 arrangements in each class except Class 6.

In the above arrangements other foliage, flowers, dried plant material, treated material, weathered material, shells, pebbles, figurines, sculpture, coral, driftwood, branches, bases and any accessory may be used. (No artificial flowers or artificial foliage permitted). One or more camellias must be used.

All Classes, except Class 6, will be exhibited in Gray-green Niche, 36" high x 24" wide x 18" deep. Niche 42" from floor.

### SCALE OF POINTS

Design .....	35
Interpretation .....	20
Textural Values .....	20
Distinction .....	15
Relation of all material .....	10

### ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS RULES

1. All exhibits must be staged and ready for the judges by 11:00 A.M., February 23, 1963.
2. All persons except Flower Show Chairman and Co-Chairman, the Clerks and the judges will be excluded from the show while judging is taking place.
3. All exhibitors are expected to maintain their exhibits in good, fresh condition.
4. Decision of the judges will be final.
5. Exhibitors must provide a substitute if unable to exhibit.

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6. Camellia show committee not responsible for properties belonging to any individual or club.
7. Containers and properties should be marked on adhesive with exhibitor's name, address and telephone number.
8. No exhibit may be dismantled or removed before 6:00 P.M., February 24, and must be removed between 6 and 7:30 o'clock, February 24, 1963.
- 9: Backgrounds shall be plain. (No painted scenes, pictures or figured material.) If plain fabric is used, no draping allowed.
10. Stands, bases, mats, or fabric used as such, allowed in all classes.
11. Exhibitors shall be limited to one entry in each class.

## AWARDS

1. The Standard System of awarding as outlined by the National Council of State Garden Clubs shall be used.—Only one blue ribbon, one red ribbon and one yellow ribbon may be given in a class.
2. Tri-Color Ribbon of the Garden Club of Georgia will be awarded to the most outstanding arrangement scoring 95 points or over in the Arrangement Classes.

## HORTICULTURAL SHOW RULES

1. All Amateur camellia growers are invited to exhibit in all horticultural classes. Commercial growers are invited to exhibit in the Class for Seedlings, and may have non-competitive exhibits by arrangement prior to the show. Note: An amateur grower is one who does not engage in the sale of plants, flowers or scions with the intent of making any part of his livelihood from them and/or who does not accept pay as a gardener, garden consultant or landscape architect, or charge admission to his garden for personal gain.
2. All entries must be received and delivered to the classification tables from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 23.
3. Exclusion from the exhibit hall during judging of all individuals other than judges, clerks and officials whose presence is necessary.
4. Except in the Arrangement classes and the Seedling class, varieties must be named and labeled correctly by exhibitors.
5. If, in the opinion of the Classification Committee, the exhibitor has given the wrong name to a variety, the Committee will have the privilege of adding the name which they believe to be correct under the name given by the exhibitor, so that the specimen may be placed in correct class. (Authority)—“The Camellia, its Culture and Nomenclature” published by the Southern California Camellia Society.)
6. It shall be the duty of the Classification Committee to reject any blooms not considered show quality.
7. Blooms from collections of five different or three of a kind will not be considered for the best bloom in the show.
8. Best bloom in the Show shall be a Camellia Japonica.
9. Variegated forms of solid varieties will be judged separately.
10. Each exhibitor may only enter one specimen from each variety in any class. (Solid and variegated forms will be considered different varieties), may likewise enter one collection of three blooms of the same variety of each variety, but he may enter only one collection of five blooms of different varieties in each Division.
11. Any prize may be withheld at the discretion of the judges, whose decisions will be final.
12. With the exception of the Artistic Arrangement Classes, all flowers must have been owned by the exhibitor for at least thirty days.
13. Low vases or similar containers will be furnished the Camellia Show for specimen blooms; containers will be furnished for collections. Each bloom should have approximately 2 inches of stem and one or two leaves.
14. Reticulatas may be shown without wood or foliage if desired. Seedlings may be shown without wood but with two of its leaves if desired.

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15. Inconspicuous wiring of specimen blooms to their own wood is not only permitted, but encouraged.
16. Exhibitors are urged to exhibit SPORTS of named varieties, blooms to be placed under varietal name of parent plant but judged separately.
17. Judging will be by the standards of the American Camellia Society.
18. No exhibit may be dismantled or removed before 6 P.M., February 24, 1963, and must be removed by 10 A.M., February 25.
19. All exhibition blooms become the property of the show and will be burned by the show committee as a safeguard against spread of petal blight.

## AWARDS

### TROPHIES

F. A. H. Klein Memorial Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in the Show  
 Buckhead Lions Club Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in the Show  
 Sears, Roebuck Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in Division I  
 Atlanta Camellia Society Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in Division II  
 North Georgia Camellia Society Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in Division III  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in Division IV  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Bloom in Division V  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Collection of five in Division I  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Collection of three in Division I  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Collection of five in Division II  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Collection of three in Division II  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Collection of five in Division III  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Collection of three in Division III  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Sweepstakes in Division I  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Sweepstakes in Division II  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Sweepstakes in Division III  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for Most Outstanding Artistic Arrangement  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for First Prize, Division X, Class I  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for First Prize, Division X, Class II  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for First Prize, Division X, Class III  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for First Prize, Division X, Class IV  
 Atlanta Camellia Show Trophy for First Prize, Division X, Class V

NOTE: Best Bloom in show will not receive a Division trophy but will receive two trophies

### CERTIFICATES

3 Gold Certificates of the American Camellia Society

3 Silver Certificates of the American Camellia Society

Most Outstanding Camellia in Division I—Certificate of the American Camellia Society

Most Outstanding Camellia in Division II—Certificate of the American Camellia Society

Most Outstanding Camellia in Division III—Certificate of the American Camellia Society

Most Outstanding Camellia in Division IV—Certificate of the American Camellia Society

Highly commended Seeding Certificate of the American Camellia Society—one or more if justified in the opinion of the Judges.

### SPECIAL AWARDS

Small silver trophy for each of the 10 blooms comprising "The Court of Honor."

Cooperative Tri-Color Ribbon, the Garden Club of Georgia for best bloom in show.

(CLASS X—Artistic Arrangements Class has been filled by members of local Garden Clubs.)

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1963 ATLANTA CAMELLIA SHOW  
1962 - 1963 ARRANGEMENT CONTEST

*Sponsored By*

THE AMERICAN COMELLIA SOCIETY

Blue ribbon winners in the Artistic Arrangement Classes of The Atlanta Camellia Show are eligible to compete in the National Arrangement Contest sponsored by The American Camellia Society.

Photographs of entries of Blue Ribbon winners shall be sent to the Chairman of the Arrangement Contest. These photographs shall be 5 x 7 inches, or larger, printed on black and white glossy paper, and clear cut in design. All photographs sent to the Chairman shall become the property of the American Camellia Society. Ribbons won at local shows, or other extraneous material such as entry cards, are not a part of the arrangement and should be removed before photographing. However, inclusion of these articles will not disqualify an entry.

A description of the contestant's entry, including class, design, color, material and container, together with schedule of the show at which the ribbon was won shall accompany each photograph. Do not use clips or pins in connection with photographs.

Photographs and descriptive matter must be sent by May 1, 1963 to the National Chairman of the Arrangement Contest.

Mrs. Hudson J. Malone  
1203 N. Davis Street  
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AWARDS

Most Outstanding Arrangement in Contest—silver trophy to be retained by the winner.

Second best in Contest—A silver trophy to be retained by the winner.

First in each Class—American Camellia Society membership for one year.

Second in each Class—Current American Camellia Society Yearbook.

Third in each Class—Current American Camellia Society Yearbook.

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## PROPAGATION OF SHRUBS FROM SOFTWOOD CUTTINGS

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Many kinds of ornamental plants may be rooted very easily from cuttings. The following discussion and procedure is for the propagation of plants on a small scale by amateur individuals.

*When to Take Softwood Cuttings*—Softwood cuttings are taken from new growth of the current season. Cuttings are more difficult to root as the wood becomes older, however, at the same time very tender growth is not sufficiently tough to withstand removal from the mother plant. With many kinds of shrubs the cuttings are sufficiently mature if the stem snaps easily instead of bending under pressure. The new growth of most shrubs is sufficiently mature in June and July. The best month to take softwood cuttings is in June, July and August.

*How to Take Cuttings*—The wood should be from vigorous, healthy growth, preferably from the upper part of the plant. Weak spindling growth should be avoided. A common error is to make the cutting too long; two to six inches is sufficient. A slanting and smooth cut should be made with a sharp knife. If possible, make the lower cut just below a node (point where leaves and buds arise), as many plants produce a better root system in the area of the node. As the cuttings are to be inserted "half way" in the rooting media, the leaves of the lower half of the stem should be removed. If the base of the cutting is inserted in one of the commercial rooting hormones, usually the cutting will root faster and a better root system will be formed.

Cuttings of Azalea, Camellia, Boxwood, Abelia, Forsythia and many other ornamental plants may be propagated by the "flower pot" method.

Use two ordinary flower pots. One 10" or 12" in diameter and one 3" or 4" in diameter. Plug the drain holes in both pots with wooden or cork plugs. Fill the larger pot one-half way up with sand or a mixture of one-half sand and one-half peat.

Set the small pot in the center of the large pot on top of the sand or sand and peat mixture. Fill the remaining area between the two pots with the rooting media you are using.


Wet the rooting media and insert the cuttings. Place the cuttings well in the sand and peat mixture. Six to eight cuttings may be placed in the pot.

Fill the small pot in the center with water. This pot acts as a reservoir, and as long as water is in it, the rooting media will have sufficient moisture. Water will pass through the sides of the small pot into the material and keep it at a constant moisture content. Add more water as needed.

After cuttings have roots one inch long, carefully remove them from the pot and transplant them in cans or line them out in rich soil.



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## WHY BURN SHOW FLOWERS?

DR. VICTOR M. CUTTER, JR., Greensboro, N. C.

Every Camellia show director has had the experience as his show draws to a close of being approached by spectators with a request to take some of the blossoms home or by eager propagators who wish to save or graft some of the scions from the exhibition blooms. It is sometimes difficult or even embarrassing to have to explain why the American Camellia Society requires that all blooms exhibited at its sanctioned shows must be destroyed on the premises. Frequently, show officials themselves do not understand the reason behind this requirement and permit blooms to be taken away. Yet a simple and logical explanation for this procedure could hardly fail to convince the most persistent flower lover of the dangers of removing blossoms from the site of a show.

The situation set up by the American Camellia Society that all show blooms must be destroyed immediately following the show is designed simply to prevent the spread of a single disease, Camellia Flower Blight. This may come as a surprise to the uninformed flower enthusiast who, gazing at the perfection of the exhibited flowers, would hardly imagine that some of them might already be infected with one of the most troublesome of all Camellia diseases. Obviously no one would knowingly enter a blighted flower in a show but the difficulty arises from the fact that until the symptoms of this disease appear, no one, even the exhibitor, can detect an infected flower. The symptoms of petal blight rarely appear until the blossom has been open for several days and frequently not until the flower begins to wilt.

Petal blight caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia Camelliae* is a widespread disease on the West Coast and in parts of the Southeast, and it can be introduced and become established wherever Camellias can be grown. This disease is spread from sclerotia or reproductive structures of the casual organism which are formed in the base of withered Camellia petals which fall to the ground. These sclerotia overwinter in the surface soil and the following Spring produce fruiting bodies which discharge millions of microscopic air borne spores. These spores falling on a Camellia petal infect it and the subsequent growth of the fungus within the petal results in the familiar brownish discoloration and wilting of petal blight. If the blighted flower is not destroyed but falls to the ground new sclerotia develop in the withered flower parts and the reproductive cycle of the fungus is completed. It takes several days between the time that the *Sclerotinia* spores fall on the petals before the growth of the fungus is apparent within them and thus it would be quite possible for an infected blossom to be brought to a show, exhibited, and then removed before any symptoms of blight appeared. Now if such an infected flower were taken from the show and then carelessly discarded on a compost pile or trash heap in the vicinity of Camellias, the petal blight organism might well become established to the detriment of all the camellia growers in the area.

This particular disease organism does not attack or live on any part of the Camellia plant except the petals, and it does not spread from flower to flower but only from flowers to the soil and back to flowers the following Spring. Hence, it is perfectly safe to use the scions bearing even an infected bloom for grafting or rooting provided the blossom is carefully removed and destroyed. This is true because sclerotia are formed only in flower

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tissue and the fungus does not invade the leaves or stems or the unopened buds. In short, only the flower is concerned in the spread of this disease.

Of course, show officials must be particularly cautious to see that the exhibited blossoms are actually incinerated rather than simply carried off to the nearest dump or they will perhaps themselves be guilty of disseminating the disease. This disease is troublesome enough to warrant the greatest care in preventing its spread, and it would be a thoughtless flower lover indeed who would jeopardize the growers in an area free from camellia flower blight for the sake of carrying home a few camellia blossoms from a show.

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## **I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GREENHOUSE, BUT . . .**

MANSFIELD LATIMER, Rock Hill, S. C.

Sooner or later 98% of all camellia growers will say, "I would like to have a greenhouse, BUT—." The other 2% probably would like to have a greenhouse too but won't admit it.

What are these "BUTS" that keep so many growers from enjoying a greenhouse for their camellias? Are these "BUTS" real reasons or just excuses? Or do these growers really believe they are real when they are not?

Let us look at the problem and then the facts can speak for themselves.

### **BUT, IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE**

Sure, a Thunderbird is expensive but a Ford is a car too and it will take you where you want to go and bring you back just as well as the more expensive car. You don't say, "If I can't have a Thunderbird I don't want a car". No, you buy the Ford and enjoy it.

The same thing is true of greenhouses. If money is no object you can buy a greenhouse that will do just about everything except cut the blooms for you. However, a homemade plastic greenhouse, costing only a few dollars will give you just as fine blooms as the most expensive greenhouse ever built.

A little "elbow grease" and ingenuity is all that is needed to build a greenhouse. There is a wide choice of materials such as glass, fiberglass, plastic, second hand windows, etc., in addition to a wide range of types and prices in the prefabricated houses.

Even the more expensive greenhouses are not really expensive when you consider the cost as being pro rated over a period of many years.

The only other cost is a small amount of general maintenance which most growers can do themselves. Cost of fuel is not excessive since only enough heat to keep the temperature above freezing is necessary and most nights, except in the more northern areas, no heat will be needed.

So, you see, cost can more or less be controlled by the individual grower who can spend as much or as little as his budget or wife will permit.

### **BUT, IT'S TOO TIME CONSUMING**

Sure, but it's a hobby, isn't it? After all, don't you want to spend some time with your camellias? Actually the best part of it is you can determine just how much time you want to spend working with your camellias.

Aside from the fact that there are a few necessary things that have to be done for your plants, you can almost forget them if your time is really limited. Depending on how many plants you have, a half a day twice a year to move them into and out of the greenhouse, an hour twice a year to fertilize them, an hour twice a year to spray them and 5 to 10 seconds per plant every week or so, depending on the time of the year, to water them. If that takes all your spare time we are sure your wife will cut some of those great big blooms for you.

Seriously, we know of no hobby that will give you as much pleasure for the small amount of time invested. On the other hand, if you have the time,

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and are so inclined, you can spend hours with your plants and flowers.

### BUT IT TAKES TOO MUCH ROOM

I assume that by this you mean you have no place to put a greenhouse. Certainly your greenhouse will hold more plants per square foot than if they were planted in your yard. Even a very small greenhouse will hold 100 plants or more, depending on the size of the plants. The flexibility given by the use of containers permits you to move and adjust your plants so that you can use available space in a way that is not possible with plants grown outside in the ground.

### BUT IT IS TOO DIFFICULT AND TAKES TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE

Not so. If you can grow camellias outside in the ground, you can grow them inside in containers. The same general cultural requirements apply regardless of where camellias are grown. As a matter of fact camellias grown in containers have certain advantages over those grown outside.

In conclusion let us take up some of the minor differences in growing camellias outside and under glass.

### SOIL MIXTURE

Actually, if everybody used the kind of soil mixture they should for outdoor plants, this same mixture could be used for container grown plants. The most important factor in container soil is drainage. The soil should be porous so that the water may pass through the soil quickly.

### WATER

The camellias is largely composed of water, which it must obtain from the soil in which it grows. Outside plants can get their water from natural rain (even they may need watering at times) but you have to supply the water for your container grown plants. The soil should never be permitted to dry out. On the other hand it should never be soggy. If you have a good soil mixture this will not be a problem.

### CONTAINERS

There are five basic types of containers. These are:

1. Wood
2. Metal
3. Clay
4. Plastic
5. Fiberglas

Each has some advantage and all are satisfactory. Except for cost, wood is probably the best all around container. The main thing to remember is not to over pot. Not only is valuable greenhouse space lost by using pots that are too large but there is more danger of having a soggy soil when there are not enough roots to fill the entire area of the container.

### REPOTTING

When camellias are properly planted outside they will never need moving. Container plants must occasionally be repotted when the plant becomes root bound. *Do not try to save time by putting small plants in large containers.* When you move a plant up to a larger container *do not over pot.*

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## FERTILIZER

Although many experienced greenhouse growers have special fertilizer formulae they use, these are not necessary. Many also fertilize during the winter or growing season but this is not necessary. Actually the same fertilizer you use on your outside plants can be used on your container plants with this one word of caution. Since the roots of container plants are confined to a small area and since all the fertilizer will go through the soil to the roots it is *important not to over fertilize*.

## PRUNING

The pruning program for outside and under glass plants is the same except that, due to the fact that sprawling plants take up valuable greenhouse space, greenhouse plants are usually cut back a little more to shape and control them.

## DISBUDDING

The disbudding program for outside and under glass plants is the same except that, due to the fact that most greenhouse blooms are grown for specimens, usually fewer buds are left on the greenhouse plants.

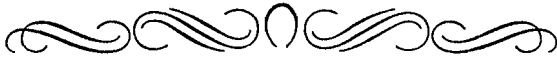
## SPRAYING

The spraying program for both outside and under glass is about the same although there may be a little more of a problem with insects in the greenhouse.

## CONCLUSION

There is no reason why you should not start growing Camellias in a greenhouse. Its neither expensive, time consuming or difficult. If you can grow them outside you can grow them inside.

In another part of this booklet you will find complete details on all phases of greenhouse culture. Start today.



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## WHY GROW CAMELLIAS?

T. COLEMAN BLOODWORTH, Macon, Georgia

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork".

Surely the ancient psalmist was viewing nature in bloom at the time these immortal words were written. While he did not have the benefit of the beauty of the camellia, he could see God's hand revealed in the beauty of the flowers and the earth. Since the beginning of time, men have enjoyed the beauty of flowers, "Consider the lilies of the field, they toil not, neither do they spin yet Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed as one of these." But do we grow flowers in general and camellias in particular for the beauty of their blooms, alone?

There is no shrub that grows more beautiful than the camellia with its many shades of green and variegated leaves, with its symmetrical shape with practically no pruning, with its growth habit which does not require moving and replacing every few years, but is this the reason we grow camellias?

When the season permits, these beautiful shrubs give us a mass of color. Formations and beauty that is indescribable, but and still there are year followed by year when dame winter denies us this luxury and still we continue to plant and pamper our plants, so it seems that the beauty of their blooms is not the sole reason we grow them.

I think possibly the reason we grow camellias is those intangible benefits we derive from growing them; one of which is the competitive spirit which is created within us by the desire to win a few blue ribbons, possibly a best in show, or to surpass the flowers grown by our friends in the flower world. (I started to write "particularly our enemies" but I could not think of any enemy I had who indulges in growing camellias.) While growing camellias creates within us a competitive spirit, it also tempers this spirit to such an extent that rarely does it breed serious jealousies. The horse races "doctors" his horse to make him run faster, other forms of competitive sports are "fixed" but seldom do we hear of any flower grower resorting to underhanded practices in order to win "best in show."

Another valuable intangible asset we derive from growing camellias is friendship. I know of no hobby which has produced such warm and lasting friendships as gardening. While I am not much of a "joiner" the best, truest and most valuable friendships I own are those I have made in the Camellia Society and the Men's Garden Club. Blooming season is a busy time for the camellia grower. He must see what Jimmie, Joe and Charlie have blooming in their gardens, but seriously are we going to see the flowers or is that just an excuse to go see those friends, chat with them about a common interest and really enjoy a friendship which was created by that common interest?

Another great asset in growing camellias is unselfishness. I can not say whether no one but unselfish people grow camellias or whether growing camellias create unselfishness, but at any rate, it seems that the most unselfish people in the world grow camellias. Go to any one of them for a scion and if you do not come away with a basketful you have refused to take that which has been offered. My wife complains about my begging a scion, but

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she will cut our bushes to the roots if anyone wants any flowers we have. Last summer one of our friends accused her of keeping our day lilies out of the ground more than in, giving away plants.

A short time ago after I had begged a scion from one of my friends, and my wife had lambasted me for so doing, my friend said. "All I ask is that you pass it along to someone else." This seems to be the general rule for all camellia lovers.

Certainly I would not fail to list relaxation as one of the virtues of growing camellias. We all know the value of a stroll in the garden after a trying day at the office. Whether it is blooming, grafting or growing season, no matter how heavy our business, personal or family problems may be, they are soon dispelled and forgotten as we look at some new variety that has bloomed for us, a new seedling, a fine graft that shows signs of "taking" or even a new infestation of scale.

Then I think the growing of camellias give us the benefit of pleasant memories. As you read this, if you have not already tired of and discarded it, you can recall some plant in your garden given you by some dear friend, the name of that plant alone will bring to mind that friend and all of the virtues and characteristics of that friend, some of whom have long since departed this life, but who will live on because of that flower.

Then growing camellias keeps us in close communion with God. A walk alone in my garden brings to mind the song: "I walk with God."

"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork." Surely no greater show of His handiwork can be seen anywhere than in the beautiful camellia.

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## PREPARING AND CARRYING BLOOMS TO SHOWS

BOYNTON COLE, Atlanta, Georgia

As show time approaches, the camellia grower starts watching his soon to open buds like a hen looking after her chicks.

Of course, preparing the plants to produce exhibition type blooms goes all the way back through being on the right track with fertilizing and watering, ample disbudding and an ever watchful eye towards keeping aphids out of the greenhouse so that the blooms won't show damage when they open. Disbudding also includes leaving buds where they have room to open symmetrically though the help of a few clothespins and pieces of string will sometimes be needed to accomplish this. Along with protection of blooms, some varieties and particularly the very beautiful BETTY SHEFFIELD family will easily show damage from water spots whether from a leak through the greenhouse roof, or from spray from a hose.

Good preparation of blooms and good methods of carrying them to shows can make a great deal of difference at the time they are judged. We are interested in preventing them from being bruised, we want them to be as fresh and crisp as possible, and we would like to have them prepared for shows so that possible rough handling during placement won't cause them to drop petals.

Generally the grower has looked over the greenhouse so many times each day that he knows just about where the quality blooms will be in the greenhouse a day or two or longer before cutting time. In any case, spot the good prospects ahead of time so that you won't overlook the one real good bloom, and so that cutting won't take so long. Also, prepare your entry cards and carrying boxes ahead of time and you may arrive at the show in something less than a state of complete exhaustion.

Blooms should be cut when the house is cool and when they are at their freshest. For local or nearby shows, I would suggest cutting the blooms quite early in the morning of the show. For shows farther away, time won't permit this and they should be cut the night before well after dark when the air temperature is cooler.

As the blooms are cut their stems should immediately be put in water, left in water a minimum of an hour or two and as long as practical. Blooms have been very successfully carried to shows in virtually airtight containers with the blooms laid on a "mattress" of slightly damp material. However, most of our experienced exhibitors here, and most of those who show here from out of town have their blooms in plastic glass flower tubes with the stems inserted through a rubber or plastic cap for the tube so the stem can stay in water.

Soon after the blooms are cut, the foliage should be wiped clean with a very damp cloth and the bloom should be wired to its stem. This wiring of blooms is not only to the advantage of the exhibitor but also helps the show maintain a good appearance since petals and bloom heads are much less likely to drop.

There are any number of ways to wire or to pin blooms to their stems and it would be essentially the same as preparing a corsage. For my clumsy fingers, I have found that the easiest way is to take a piece of 26-gauge

steel wire about six inches long, bend over one end for about three-fourths to one inch, long, and to push it through the upper part of the calyx and slightly downward into the center of the flower. While I might use only one or two wires on a small to medium size bloom, I would use three wires on a large flower. After the wires are inserted in the bloom, they are wound around the stem two or three times and then clipped off just a little beyond the end of the stem. This makes it easier to insert the stem in the small hole in the tube cap. The blooms are packed in the box they are to be carried in as they are wired. Either the Entry Card is put in the box close to its bloom or a diagram of the blooms in the box is made and the Entry Cards are scotched taped to the outside of the box.

The one exception that I can think of to the desirability of wiring blooms is the occasional show that exhibits blooms on inclined surfaces of damp Spanish moss. In this case, the wires will catch in the moss and when they are shifted from time to time in placement, the bloom is very apt to be damaged. It probably would still be desirable to wire the bloom if tape could be wrapped over the wire to that there would be no ends to catch in the moss.

The basic requirements of a box to carry blooms to shows is that it be tight fitting so that a moist atmosphere can be maintained in it, that it be deep enough to keep the top from beating the blooms in the head, and deep enough to include room for a generously thick "mattress" in the bottom, that it be strong enough not to be floppy and big enough to avoid crowding the blooms and letting their edges get damaged.

Boxes used by exhibitors include plastic cake or shoe boxes, corrugated cardboard boxes obtained from a florist, and aluminum boxes or aluminum stack trays with a lid for the top tray that are made especially for carrying camellias. All of these are good. I believe the most convenient size would be boxes or trays that hold from eight to sixteen blooms each. Remember that your large variety greenhouse blooms should average requiring from six by six to seven by seven inches for each bloom. Large boxes are difficult for one person to handle, and are difficult to get through showroom doors.

The "mattress" or lining for the bottom of the flower box could be Spanish moss, shredded waxpaper or almost anything that would be soft and springy and that would fill the bottom of the box. We usually use about an inch and a half to two inches thickness of the material so that it will keep the blooms from sliding around and to absorb vibration. Before the blooms are packed, the material in the box should be lightly sprayed with water unless it is already slightly damp. While it is highly desirable that the blooms be carried in a moist atmosphere, they will become heavy and soggy if the material in the box is entirely too wet. The tighter the bloom box the more easily this happens.

The blooms are now picked and packed, and this should take care of normal conditions in getting them in good shape to the show, but we sometimes encounter abnormal conditions. These include letting the box remain outdoors when the weather is sub-freezing, leaving them in a car overnight and having them freeze, and even riding to a show with the boxes packed in the trunk and having them freeze. Also, leaving the boxes outdoors and having the sun bake the blooms in the box. These errors happen just occa-

sionally, but almost always some goodhearted soul at the show wants to help by moving your boxes. Naturally the easiest way to pick them up is by the string holding the box or boxes together. If the string is weak the blooms get a real good jolt when the box hits the floor.

Sometimes we have very good blooms reach their peak ahead of a show that we want to exhibit in. Then it is desirable to pick the bloom at its peak or slightly before its peak and keep it under refrigeration for a few days. We have known of more than one best in show that had been refrigerated for as much as two or three weeks, but we normally prefer not to start picking before the Tuesday preceding a Saturday show. The bloom would be prepared just as we would prepare a bloom that was going right to a show, but we would be sure that it was in a tube of water, and in an airtight container that was just slightly moist inside. The bloom boxes would then be packed in a refrigerator and kept about thirty-eight degrees but certainly not as cold as freezing. The prepicked blooms can then be carried to the show in picnic type ice chests or in one especially. The insulated chests can also serve in extremely cold weather to keep blooms from freezing in the trunk of your car if the trip isn't too long.

There is one natural hazard that occurs here some years but by no means every year that something can be done about if preparations are made ahead of time. We occasionally have a week or two of abnormally warm weather in February or early March that brings bees out in generous quantities. These bees seem to like camellias as much as the growers do. Almost as soon as a flower is pollinated by a bee, it begins to flop. In addition to this, the spurs on the legs of some bees leave little brown spots on the bloom petals. This is particularly noticeable on the whites. When the unusually warm weather does occur, the bees can be foiled by mosquito netting on all the openings in the house including the roof ventilators. (The ventilator arms can slide between opposing soft bristle brushes that will keep the bees out.) The drawback to mosquito netting or screens is that it does keep the greenhouse somewhat warmer, and it takes time to install it. An alternate easier solution is to have some screened openings left in place all of the time at one end of the greenhouse, and an evaporative cooler installed at the other end. These evaporative coolers consist of a fan, a wood fiber filter with a water spray, so bees can't get through, and either manual or automatic controls. The cooler can bring in fresh air and will keep the greenhouse moist and cool with the other openings shut. There is some indication that if an evaporative cooler is used all of the time, it may change your blooming season to the extent that all of your good blooms will be over before show season starts.

We would certainly assume that before you had a greenhouse very long that you would have discovered for yourself that there are certain other natural hazards towards the production of good blooms such as well meaning friends or relatives that innocently pull a branch closer to them to better see a bloom and then suddenly release it. The violent vibration caused by this act is not considered to be in the bloom's interest. Likewise, the ones who like to check the texture of a petal by firmly pressing it between the thumb and index finger can cause trouble. Briefly, the best solution to this sort of hazard is to warn once and then shoot.

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## CAMELLIAS FOR THE YARD

By Dr. W. D. Kimbrough, Dr. J. S. Roussel and Dr. R. H. Hanchey  
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Director of Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station and the authors.

### INTRODUCTION

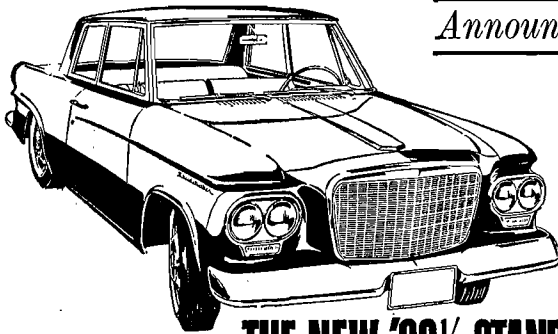
"Information regarding camellias is still in very great demand. During the last few years knowledge about camellia culture has increased considerably. This has been brought about by experimental work done with this plant and an accumulation of findings by camellia growers. There is much difference of opinion among camellia growers as to the best practices to follow. This means that there is still much to learn about the best care of camellia plants. This bulletin is being revised so that it will be of more value to those interested in growing camellias.

### PRONUNCIATION

There is still no unity as to how the word camellia should be pronounced. At the present time the majority of those interested in camellias seem to prefer the use of ca-mell'-ia. Many, however, still prefer what was the more common pronunciation, ca-me'-lia. Both are correct, and the one liked best by the individual using it should be used. Again it should be pointed out that CAMELLIA is a genus and includes several species such as japonica, sasanqua, reticulata, saluenensis, and others. Plants generally called camellias now are of the species japonica and were called japonicas until a relatively few years ago.

### VARIETIES

The selection of varieties to plant is a most important factor in successfully growing camellias. The number of varieties is said to run into the thousands. Large numbers of seedlings are being grown and some are named and put on the market each year. There is still some confusion in the nomenclature of camellia varieties. A good start has been made toward getting the names of varieties straightened out. The biennial publication "The Camellia—Its Culture and Nomenclature" of The Southern California Camellia Society is accepted as authoritative by the American Camellia Society. Many varieties have one or more synonyms. In a few instances one variety name is used for two distinct kinds. This is especially likely to be true in different sections of the country. There is considerable variation in individual preference regarding varieties he or she particularly likes. A good camellia show is one of the best places to get an idea of the types of flowers that one might want. Selecting varieties to plant solely on the basis of blooms seen in a flower show, especially the "queen of the show", is often poor practice. This has led to many disappointments in the past. In a show, flowers are judged on their individual merits, and an excellent bloom may be produced on a plant of a variety that in general is unsatisfactory. The "queen of the show" may also win by a very close margin in a vote of the judges. It is best to see blooms on the plant and to know how successful a variety is in the area where it is to be grown. Under good conditions a camellia plant should live for a long time, and an unattractive variety will occupy as much space and require as much care as a desirable one. Cost of plants is an important item with the average person, but it is suggested that with camellias price should be a secondary consideration. The important



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thing is to get good plants of the variety wanted. The price of plants is largely determined by size and scarcity. Plants that are hard to propagate and new introductions are usually more expensive. Grafted plants cost more than own-rooted plants. Just because a plant of a variety is expensive, however, does not necessarily mean that it is a good one.

Flowers of camellia varieties range in color from white to dark red. Many are variegated. Some of the reds are almost purple. Plants vary in type of growth from upright to very spreading, and the shape of the plant may be an important factor in determining where it is to be placed. The season of bloom varies from very early to very late. Varieties that will spread the blooming season over a long period of time should be selected. Camellia blooms that are produced during hot weather are usually not very good. This means that varieties that bloom very early or very late are usually not best for those having only a few varieties. In South Louisiana the blooming season usually extends from about the middle of September until April. One advantage of the varieties that produce early blooms is that they will produce blooms before they are likely to be damaged by cold. They are usually gone, however, before most of the regular shows are held. Plants of most varieties bloom during December, January, and February and are liable to injury from cold, and this means that single, semi-double, incomplete double, and irregular double types are more dependable after freezes occur. Some varieties, such as Mathotiana, do not show stamens and pistils early in the season but commonly do later. These flower parts have been noted in rare instances in blooms of Pink Perfection, Prince Eugene Napoleon, Mathotiana Alba, Laurel Leaf, and Brilliant. Some varieties tend to produce flowers profusely for a short period, while others tend to open fewer blooms at a time but over a longer period. Weather conditions may greatly influence the period of the bloom. The flowers of some varieties fall from the plant too soon after opening. This is especially true for some of the semi-double types. Others tend to hang on and dry up on the plant. There are advantages for both types. The ones that fall do not leave unsightly blooms on the plant, but the ones that hang on usually last longer and make better cut flowers or corsages. Some varieties are very showy and make a good display in the yard, while others are especially good for the production of cut flowers. Some are good for either purpose.

Nearly any variety of camellia will produce some pretty flowers, but some are more consistent and considered to be better than others. It is fine for collectors with plenty of space and money to have several hundred. The average person in an ordinary yard can only have a limited number and therefore should use much care in selecting varieties. In general, it is best to plant established varieties that are known to be good. There are always, however, varieties that the real camellia fan wants that he doesn't have, and there is the likelihood that more plants will be planted in a given area than should be. Because of individual preference, no attempt will be made to tell anyone what varieties should be planted. The individual will likely change his opinion about varieties as the years pass. As a help to those who want to get plants but are unfamiliar with varieties, a list with some characteristics is given. It is not expected that there will be agreement with the list as given; in fact, the writers themselves do not entirely agree with the order in which the first twenty varieties are listed, or exactly with the list itself. All are believed to be good. If one could plant fifty varieties he could have about all of the best ones. Many varieties are so nearly alike that they are difficult to tell apart; others are quite

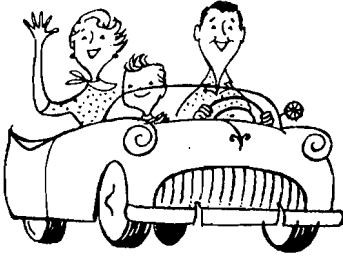


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similar. Many varieties are just variegated ones of named solid-color varieties. There is a difference of opinion in regard to preference for solid-color or variegated flowers.

More than 100 selected varieties have been grown in full sun in plots at the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. A more limited number have been grown in the lath house.

No attempt will be made to rate the very new introductions, at it takes several years to determine their true value. Most of them do not become really popular. Therefore it is best to leave testing of newly named seedlings to those who have special interest and space and who can afford such testing. Among the not too old introductions the following are believed to be good ones to try:

**TOMORROW**—This variety produces very large, beautiful blooms. Some protection may often be necessary for the flowers to open properly. There is a variegated form of this variety.

**CORAL PINK LOTUS**—Flowers are very large and open well considering their size.

**MRS. D. W. DAVIS**—Very large attractive blooms are produced. Some protection is also helpful for flowers of this variety to open.

**VULCAN**—This variety was introduced from the Fruit and Truck Experiment Station near Hammond, La. The flowers are somewhat variable in shape, but this appears to be a good variety.

**GIULO NUCCIO**—This is a popular variety. When the flowers are rabbit-eared, they are very pretty.

There are a number of varieties that grow well that might be preferred by some rather than those that have been suggested. Among these are: Sarah Frost, Brilliant, Rubra Vignalis, Bealii, Rosea, Derbyana, Duncan Bell, Rosa Mundi, Hishi Karaito, White Queen, White Giant, Vedrine, Martha Brice, Gigantea, Virgin's Blush, Victory Maid, Galilee, Margharita Caleonie, Goshoguruma, Pearl Harbor, Tinsie, Gen. Geo. Patton, Mrs. Howard Asper, Campbell Ashley, Tinky Lee, Empress of India, Enrico Bettoni, Rev. John Bennett, Duchess of Sutherland, Kimberley, Nina Avery, Cameo Pink, Governor Earl Warren, C. M. Wilson, and Otome.

There are some varieties that can not be recommended because they do not grow well. Some of these are Dante, Magnolia Queen, Te Deum, Eleanor of Fair Oaks, St. Andre, Eugene Lizze, Kenny, Margaret Jack, Duc de Bretagne, John Drayton, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, Mrs. K. Sawada, Youbiko Dori, Kamasaka, King Lear, Emma, Conflagration, Rosalee Frosty Morn, and Catherine Cathcart.

The following varieties are not recommended for the reason given:

**Pope Pius**—Grows well but there are too many imperfect flowers.

**Col. Firey**—Grows very well but not enough good flowers open.

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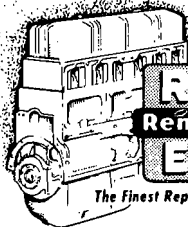
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Woodville Red—Plant always looks unhealthy, buds drop easily, and there are not enough good flowers.

Admiral Nimitz—Tends to bullnose.

Nagasaki—Too often flowers do not open; when they do, they fall quickly.

Iwana Shibora—Very susceptible to dieback. Flowers drop quickly.

Fred Sander—Flowers drop quickly when open, but many may not open.

Fanny Bolis—Difficult to keep plants alive.

Elisabeth Arden—Difficult to keep plants alive.

Big Beauty—Plants grow very well, but most of the buds bullnose.

Molly Moore Davis—Plants grow very well, but most of buds bullnose.

Morning Glow—Plants make excellence growth, but flowers are likely to be small and are very easily damaged.

Joseph Pfingstl—Subject to dieback, and not many good flowers produced.

Mathotiana Alba—The plant grows very well and the flowers are very beautiful, but because they are imbricated and bloom late, it is not often that good flowers are obtained.

Donckelari—This variety is just as hard to grow as Ville de Nantes and the flowers are not as pretty. Only the collector should be interested in having both.

Joshua E. Youtz—Blooms are very beautiful but not enough of them open properly.

Masterpiece—The plant makes vigorous growth but not many flowers open properly.

There will be many people who have excellent plants of, and are well pleased with, many of the varieties that are not recommended. This is to be expected. Opinions regarding varieties will change from time to time. The question is often asked as to what is the most beautiful camellia. That again is a matter of opinion. However, a large rabbit-eared, fimbriated Ville de Nantes containing lots of white will be very hard to beat.

## LOCATION

Location largely determines whether camellias may be successfully grown. Of first importance are climatic conditions. As the blooming season is during the fall and winter, the winters must be mild. In areas where camellias are adapted, good drainage is the first essential of a good location. Unless the soil is well drained, the growth of the camellia planted in it will not be satisfactory. This does not mean merely surface run off of excess rainfall, but a soil that does not stay waterlogged in periods of wet weather. Where the drainage is only fairly good, camellia plants may live and grow very well for a time, but in prolonged wet seasons they are likely to die. The plants are likely to do better when they are small, but the larger they become, the more likely they are to be damaged. It should be pointed out that plants growing where the water table is near the surface will have shallow root systems. For this reason

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such plants will suffer from drouth much more than those with deeper root systems. Setting plants on mounds may be of some help where drainage is not what it should be. This is more or less a temporary help and will not take the place of good drainage. Many excellent plants die every year because they are planted in poorly drained soil.

If a hardpan or any impervious layer occurs in the soil near the surface, root growth will not be normal and plants will not grow well. These are very poor locations in which to plant camellias.

Partial shade is essential for small camellia plants, and some shade is beneficial to larger ones. Plants less than 18 inches should receive some protection from the sun. They may be grown in a lath house or on the shady side of a house, or given special protection if planted in the open where they are to grow permanently. While partial shade is beneficial, plants grown in dense shade will not make normal growth or bloom profusely. Pine trees are excellent plants to furnish shade for camellias. Plants grown in full sun seem to flatten more than those in partial shade. Varieties that are difficult to grow should not be planted in full sun.

As camellias bloom at a time when there is likely to be injury by cold, especially susceptible varieties should be planted in locations that give some protection from cold.

## PLANTING

It is true that camellias can be transplanted at any time of the year if they are handled properly and with a sufficient ball of soil. In general though, transplanting should be done during the fall and winter. Probably the best time is November or early December. This is because roots may continue to grow during the winter and such plants are likely to be better established when growth starts in the spring than those plants that are set out later. Actually more plants are bought during the flowering season, especially after camellia shows, and that means that most of the transplanting is done in January and February.

If possible, it is best to select the places where plants are to be set out several months in advance of time of planting. The hole should be dug and some decayed organic matter and aluminum sulphate, if needed, worked into the soil as the hole is refilled. Unless one is skilled in the use of commercial fertilizer none should be used, with the possible exception of a small amount of super-phosphate, when the hole is prepared.

In earlier issues of this bulletin considerable emphasis was placed on the depth of setting camellia plants. It was pointed out that after the soil had settled the plants should be no deeper than they were in the nursery row. It was believed that plants that were planted too deep would very likely die. To get information on the effect of depth of planting on camellias the following experiment was conducted. Plants were set out on a 10 foot row that was slightly rigged as follows: plant set on top of soil with no hole dug; one third of the ball left above the soil surface; plants set as deep as they were in the nursery row; 1 inch deeper than in the nursery; 4 inches deeper than in nursery. Two varieties, Pink Perfection and Debutante, were used. There were three replications consisting of a plant of each variety for each treatment per replication. The results showed that there was no difference in growth due to the depth of planting. This means that where drainage is excellent the depth of

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planting is not as important as it was believed to be. This does not mean that in many locations depth of planting is not still an important consideration. It is probable that plants that are set too deep are more subject to injury from root rot, and thus the plant may be lost. Many plants are now just set on top of the ground and soil mounded up around them. There is no advantage to this method except where drainage is poor. Such plants are difficult to water during periods of drouth. Where drainage is good, it is still recommended that plants be set as deep as they were in the nursery row, as there is no advantage to deeper planting. Sometimes if plants that have been set too deep are unhealthy they may be benefited by being raised or placed in a more favorable location.

Holes should not be dug or plants set out when the soil is muddy, for that would leave the soil around the plant in poor condition. Burlap does not need to be removed from the balled plants, but it can be if there is no danger of breaking the ball of soil. When the hole around the plant is nearly filled with soil a thorough watering should be given. After the water has soaked in, the filling of the hole with soil should be completed. Smaller plants are sometimes shipped bare-rooted. If properly dug, bare-rooted plants may have a higher percentage of roots left on them than on plants balled and burlapped. Container-grown plants are becoming more popular. In general they are smaller than balled and burlapped plants. They have the advantage of having a complete root system. If plant roots in a container get pot bound, they may not spread out properly after they have been transplanted to a permanent location.

Sometimes camellia plants are grown in a fairly heavy soil. If soil of this type on balled and burlapped plants becomes puddled and then is allowed to dry out, it may be difficult to wet when the plant is set out under favorable conditions or if the hill method of planting is used. Water may not penetrate the ball sufficiently to wet it thoroughly. A plant may die for lack of water when it should apparently have plenty. The plant may live but be in poor condition for some time. If plants are dug it is often found that roots have not gotten out of the original ball. If this condition is known to exist, the soil should be removed and the plant set out as a bare-rooted plant.

When plants are balled and burlapped some of the roots are cut off. The larger the plant moved, the higher the percentage of root loss. Because of the loss of roots, it is often best to remove some of the top at planting time. This has not been done as a general practice, but it may determine whether the plant lives or not, or at least how soon it recovers from the shock of transplanting. If plants are set out in full sunlight, some protection until they become established will be beneficial. Moving plants is not beneficial unless they are moved to a more favorable location. Space often does not seem important when plants are small. Camellia plants under good conditions should live a long time and will need space in which to grow. Camellia plants are usually considered to be slow growing, but for many of the commonly planted varieties this is not true. Six-foot spacing is suggested as a compromise between what they should have and the way they are often planted. Fast growing, spreading kinds have become crowded at Baton Rouge in eight years from 18-inch plants set six feet apart. Pruning, which will be discussed later, can influence the planting distance.

## SOILS

Camellia plants are grown on a wide range of soils but they are not well adapted to very heavy types. In any case, a high percentage of organic

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matter should be present. This may be supplied in the form of leaf or woods mold, or from well decomposed manure to which no lime or other chemicals have been added. Cow manure is preferable to other kinds of manure. Peat moss is often used as a source of organic matter. Usually the decaying mulch will supply sufficient organic matter after plants are established. In some localities the soil is of such a type that a specially prepared soil is used in which to set the plants. The soil is removed from a hole not less than four feet in diameter and 30 inches deep and is replaced with a mixture of soil, organic matter, and sand. The composition of the mixture may vary to some extent. Soils that contain a high percentage of undecomposed organic matter will settle, and due allowance should be made for this at planting time. When sulphate have made as good growth as those in any other plot, if not better. There has been no indication of toxicity.

Good plant growth and flower production of camellias have been obtained over a wide range of soil pH. This shows again that the pH of the soil may not of itself be of great importance in growing camellias. That does not mean that in many locations the addition of acidifying materials may not be beneficial, for it often is necessary. Under the conditions of this experiment, heavy applications of aluminum sulphate have not been injurious to plant growth. Therefore it is recommended for use at rates not exceeding 1/4 to 1/2 pound per square yard of surface per application. Sulphur can be used but must be used with caution and at rates not exceeding 1/3 of those recommended for aluminum sulphate. Ammonium sulphate should be used as a source of nitrogen and not primarily as a material to modify the acidity of the soil. It should be pointed out that if plants are healthy there is no need to add acidifying materials.

So far there has been no indication that soil pH has an effect on the color of *Mathotiana* blooms. There was no noticeable difference in the color of flowers produced on the plants that were growing in soil that ranged in pH from 3.1 to 7.8. Cool weather affects the color to some extent but does not explain the variation in color of blooms on plants exposed to the same temperature.

## WATERING

Though good drainage is essential for the well being of camellia plants, sufficient water to meet their requirements is also necessary. The average grower may not realize the importance of water to the proper functioning of the plant. There seems to be difference of opinion among growers as to whether plants should be watered or not. Actually this is no problem; when the plants need water it should be supplied if possible. Even in humid areas there are usually times during the year in most locations when irrigation would be most beneficial to the plants. It is especially important that the plants not suffer from lack of water for the first two years after they are transplanted. The second year is especially important, for that is when they are most likely to be neglected. When plants are watered, the ground should be thoroughly soaked and then not watered again for about a week. A little sprinkle of water every day or two does little if any good. Water may be alkaline in reaction, as it is in Baton Rouge, so plants that are watered extensively should be watched for symptoms resulting from alkaline soil. If these symptoms are noticed, corrective measures as mentioned before will be necessary.

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## PRUNING

In general there has been very little pruning done with camellia plants. Plants have more or less just been allowed to grow. There is a growing interest in the pruning of camellia plants. For several years it has been recommended that plants that make a dense type growth be thinned to allow for more efficient spraying. The badly shaded limbs and twigs produce few if any good flowers, but they do harbor scales which are very difficult to hit with the spray material.

The best blooms are usually produced on vigorous plants, small to medium in size. As the plants get larger there are more growing points and the amount of shoot growth may be relatively short. A large number of flower buds are set per plant and the individual flowers tend to be smaller. Larger plants are more difficult to spray and care for generally. The plants occupy considerable space and it is almost impossible to disbud them.

That plants can be kept fairly small and yet healthy for a number of years has been shown by greenhouse grown plants and by plants grown in fairly large containers. It is believed that in many yards, it would be better not to let camellia plants get to large. In that way those interested could have more plants and care for them better with less effort. Enough blooms could be produced and they would often be better blooms. Under unfavorable conditions the smaller plants might live longer. In some instances there is apparently good drainage and the plants may make excellent growth until they are rather large. However, there may be limitations on the amount of soil area suitable for proper root expansion under such conditions. The plant may begin to look unhealthy and begin to have dead areas over it. Rather heavy pruning is often beneficial to such plants. Unhealthy, unpruned limbs will likely still remain in poor condition.

Smaller plants could also be better as landscape material. Plants can be kept from getting too large by pruning. This may seem a radical departure from customary practice, but there is no reason why it should not be successfully done. Pruning should be done after the blooming period is over and before growth starts. Wounds, especially large ones, should be covered with a good protective material.

If no other pruning is done, dead and damaged limbs should be removed from the plant.

## CUTTING OF BLOOMS

Some people hesitate to cut camellia blooms because they are afraid of damaging the plants. When plants are very small, few if any blooms should be cut. The blooms may be twisted off without injury to the terminal growth bud, if done carefully. Such blooms are good for floating in shallow containers. When plants attain moderate size, cutting of flowers is not harmful. Having flowers to give friends, to have in the house, to wear as corsages, and to enter in flower shows is a large part of the pleasure of growing camellias. Even though a terminal bud is removed with a bloom there are usually buds in the axils of leaves that can grow and make new shoots. Many camellias make excellent cut flowers for various uses, and there should be no hesitancy in cutting blooms except when the plants are small.

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