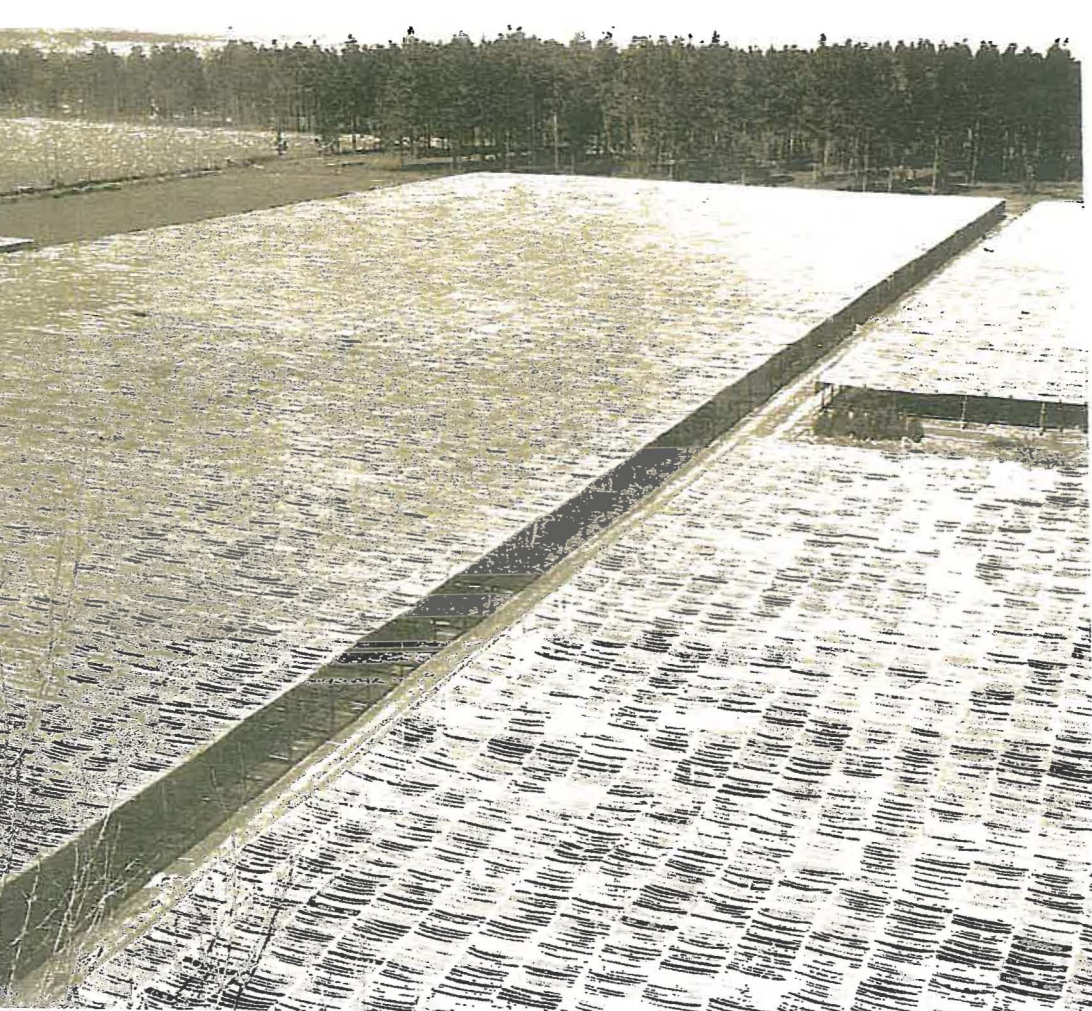


# Camellias

THE SOUTH'S MOST  
ARISTOCRATIC BLOOM  
IS YANKEE FAVORITE



Camellias are grown at the Kiyono Nurseries under acres of slatted cover which gives the bush the parti-

al shade it likes. Above: the gardens from Kiyono's water tower. Below: the bushes in bloom underneath.



MR. KIYONO & CAMELLIA

To most of America, the camellia is an unknown flower. The average Northerner has never even seen a real one. If he knows it at all, it is as a white flower for which a lady in French fiction had a great fondness.

But to the South the camellia is a beloved and respected bloom. Less common than the cherished azalea, it is the South's most aristocratic flower. Lovely, exotic, with colors that range from rose red to pure white, it blooms only in the winter. The first

buds open in October. Now, in early March, late-blooming varieties are spreading their petals against their glossy green leaves. By April, they will be fading all away.

Meanwhile, in the big cities of the North socialite ladies have discovered the strange charm of the camellia. Though it has no real fragrance, is short stemmed and fades under handling, the camellia has become one of the most popular flowers for ladies' hair and corsages, ranking behind only the orchid and gardenia. These camellias are grown in northern hot-houses, cost from \$1 to \$4 each.

The camellia, native to the Orient, was first brought to the West in 1739 by a Moravian Jesuit named Kamel. Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist, gave the flower its name—*Camellia japonica*, after Kamel and after Japan, where it grows in profusion. The English were the first great camellia lovers but the worship of the flower reached its height in France during the 1840's. No Parisian dandy of the time considered himself decently dressed unless he wore a camellia in his jacket. Soon everyone was weeping over Alexandre Dumas's sad story of a lost lady, *La Dame aux Camélias*, which later became the play *Camille*, the opera *La Traviata*.

In 1804, a red camellia bush was brought to Charleston, S.C. It and the shrubs that followed thrived and quickly grew popular in the South. Today a camellia bush costs from \$5 up to \$150 depending on its age, size and variety. Probably the largest commercial grower in the U.S. is T. Kiyono of Mobile, Ala., who has 20 acres of camellia plants, sells 150,000 seedlings and shrubs a year. Born in Japan, Mr. Kiyono came to America in 1908. A pleasant, cultured horticulturist, he collects American antiques, breeds a few rare camellia varieties but parts with them only when the stock market goes down.

MANY FAMOUS ARTISTS HAVE PLAYED CAMILLE: CLARA MORRIS & FANNY DAVENPORT ON STAGE; FRANCES ALDA IN OPERA; NORMA TALMADGE & GRETA GARBO ON SCREEN





**A**bove is the Empress, a large and lovely camellia, shown in the various stages of its growth. The tight bud shown at right opens up (going counter-clockwise) into the full bloom in the center which measures 7 in. in diameter.

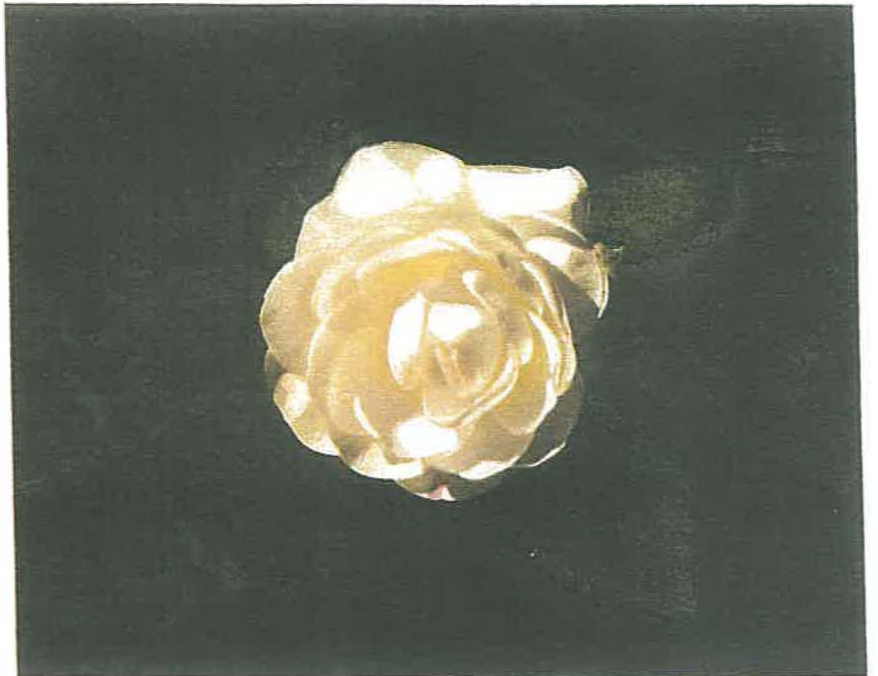
**B**elow, the white camellia at lower center is a Sieboldie. Fully visible, clockwise around rim: Miss Nora, Empress, Adelina Patti, Akebono (top), Empress, Herme, Kumasaka. Around figure in center: Akebono, Pink Herme.



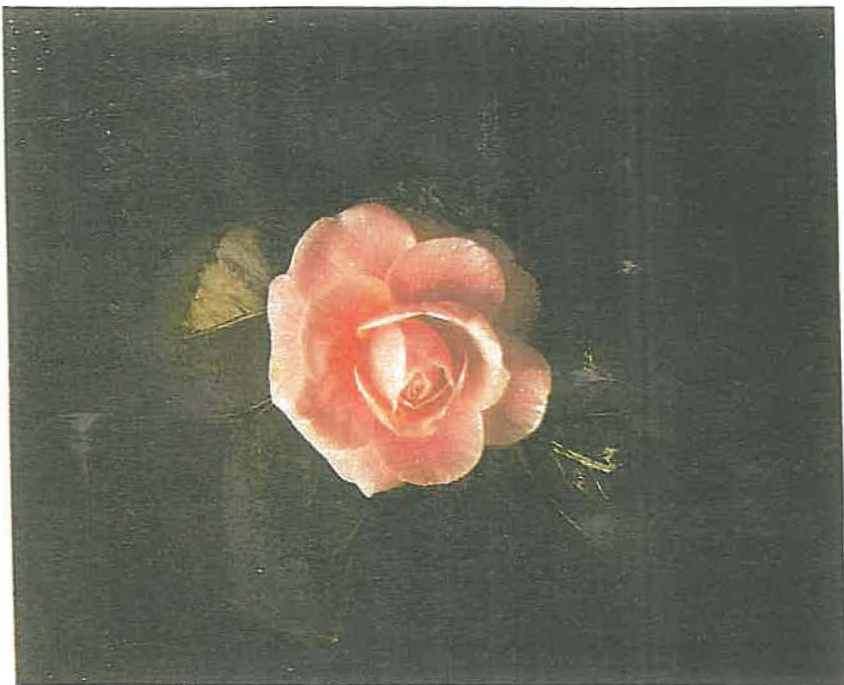
*Camellias* (continued)



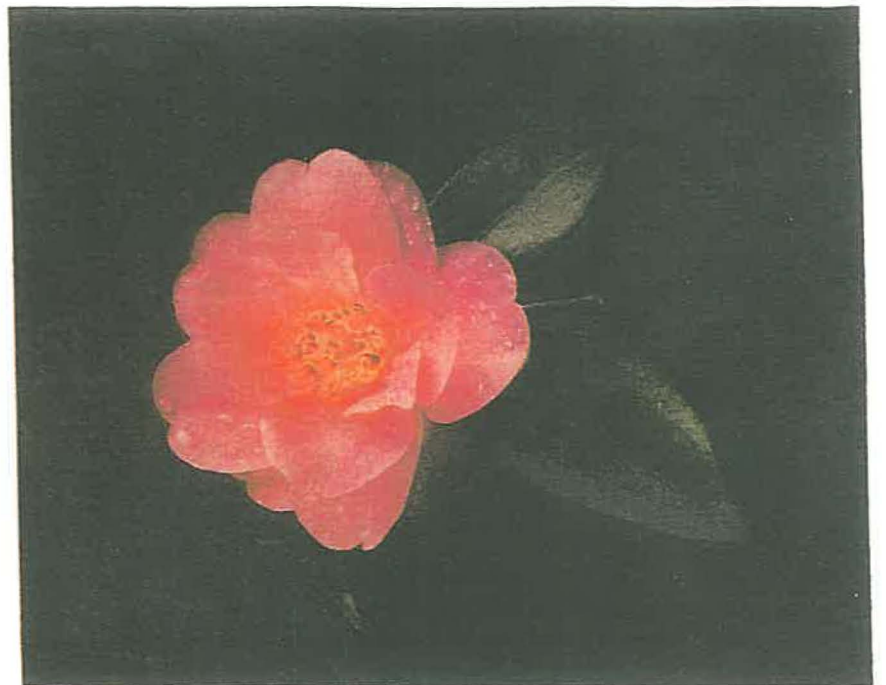
Mrs. C. Henry Cohen (a Miss Nora) was developed by Mr. Boardman, who named it for a friend. He and Mrs. Cohen have the only two plants.



The wax-white Magnoliaflora, grown by the Kiyono Nurseries, is still a rare variety. It is a compact camellia, a type which is currently growing popular.



The rose-like Otome is an old-fashioned camellia, which is much admired for its delicate pink color. One of the hardier varieties, it is fairly plentiful.



The simple Akebono is a novel Japanese variety which has been developed recently. Fanciers consider it one of the prettiest of all pink camellias.



The Mikenjaku, another new Japanese bloom, is still a very scarce variety. It is called a variegated camellia because it has two-colored petals.

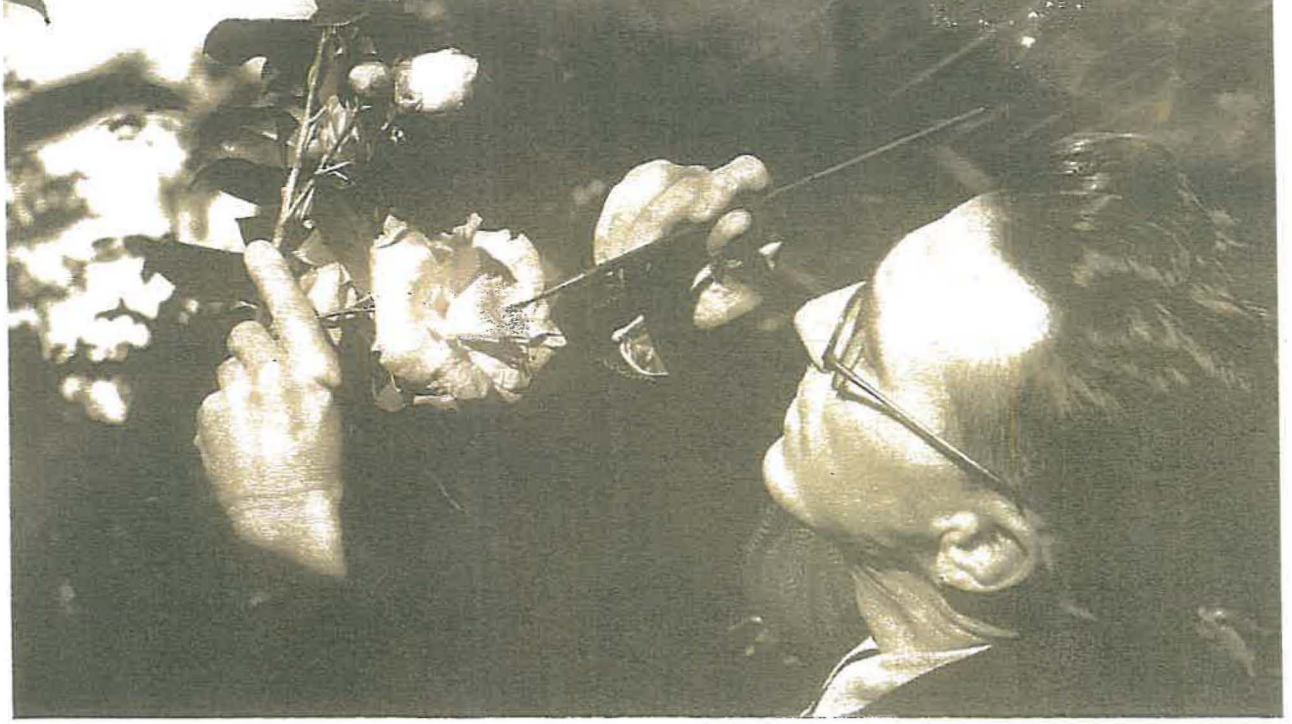


An evergreen, the camellia has glossy, deep green leaves which set the flowers off beautifully. This bloom is another of Mr. Boardman's Miss Noras.

## 300 KINDS OF CAMELLIAS ARE GROWN IN U. S.

*Camellia japonica* belongs to a small family of ever-green shrubs called *Theaceae*, the best-known member of which is the tea plant. A hardy shrub, the camellia adapts itself to varied soils. It grows in red clay, black soil, sand or rich delta muck. It prefers partial shade but blooms readily even in complete shade. It is an admirable winter plant because it blooms best when the temperature is between 45° and 55°. Though the fully opened camellia bloom dies from frost or too much handling, cold weather does not harm the well-sheathed buds. A healthy plant blooms for months and at a single time a shrub will carry as many as 200 flowers. Because camellias are easily cross-bred, a great many hybrid varieties have been developed. In the U. S. alone, some 300 hybrids are grown. But only about 50 have any commercial value.

In the U. S., the camellia grows outdoors as far north as Virginia, as far south as middle Florida, as far west as the Mississippi. Then, jumping the continent, it appears profusely in parts of the Pacific Coast. Sacramento has lovely camellias in its parks and gardens. A fine camellia growing spot is Augusta, Ga., where the camellia is a favorite garden flower and where this winter's flower show attracted thousands of blooms and visitors. Many prizes at the show were taken by Alonzo P. Boardman, in whose garden most of the camellias shown here in color were grown. Now 43, Mr. Boardman began growing camellias when he was a boy because his father got him interested. Long an amateur, he has now turned professional, although on a much smaller scale than Mr. Kiyono. Of the many varieties he has developed, he thinks 15 have some worth. One he likes best is the Elizabeth Fleming Boardman, named for his attractive wife.



Alonzo Boardman pollinates a camellia. With a fine brush, he flecks pollen from a male flower onto the pistil of a fe-

male. Because a camellia is long in maturing, it will be eight years before he sees the result of this cross-breeding.



A private camellia show was held by Judge Henry C. Hammond in Augusta. For vases, he used whisky jigger bot-

tles. The Judge gives his friends basketfuls of blooms like one below shown between feet of his colored boy Bud.



Judge Hammond of Augusta, wearing butcher's coat, picks blooms from an 8-ft. camellia bush, one of 12,000 he has.

