



*Atlantic  
Coast Camellias*

*Melissa Anne*

The Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society

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## The Master's Garden

Today I walked among the trees  
And flowers here and there  
And thought of how each tender bud  
Received such gentle care.

This Gardener surely must have loved  
Each tiny little seed  
To look beyond our view and see  
An ever, ever present need.

For beauty and serenity  
The things we cherish so  
And only by the Master's grace  
These things will bloom and grow.

This is the Master's Garden  
Created up above  
And every living thing therein  
Is a symbol of His love.

Tread softly, gentle stranger  
As down this path you trod  
For the beauty found in nature  
Is a blessed gift from God.

Mrs. Ernest S. Todd  
Myrtle Beach Garden Club,  
Myrtle Beach, SC

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Full show results are posted on the ACCS Website. Show dates for next year's season are updated as they are confirmed.

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## President's Message: A Spring Like No Other

By Randolph Maphis

Camellia growers have never seen a spring like the one this year. There have been real health and economic issues. I hope you have used your head and stayed home away from other people, and that you have kept yourself safe. I know that I have stated in the "Presidents Message" that I don't like to write about the weather. I guess that was a lie. This message details observations on almost everything including weather. The Weather?



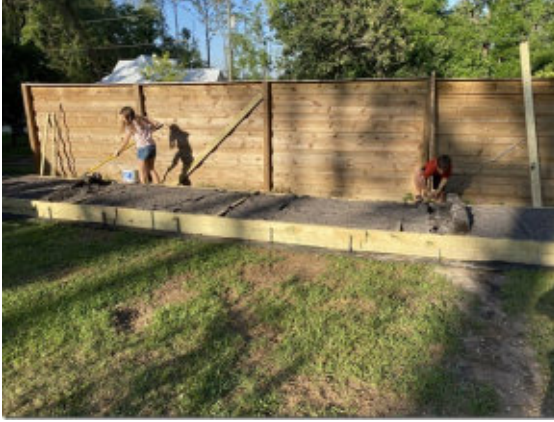
This year has been really different in many ways. We had a real spring down here in the south. Last year, almost all of May was over 90 degrees, with no rain. This year, May was kind of cool with a nice sprinkling of showers and sun. Everyone's camellia grafts are doing great. We all are bragging about our success rate this year. Lawns look really great. Gardening this year is HOT! HOT! HOT!

Spring is gardening time, and gardens and gardeners are really different this year. The grandkids and I started planting just as everything was going to pot. Gabriel and Brooke Maphis helped me plant potatoes, beans, cucumbers, and squash. Then we went to buy tomatoes and eggplants at the local garden center where things were really different ... Esposito's Garden Center was slammed! People were everywhere. You would have thought that you were in the midst of a hurricane warning, and Publix was about to sell out of water and canned goods. I bet there were over 100 people trying to buy plants, fertilizer, and seeds. People that had never planted anything in their lives were standing in line to ask questions of anyone that looked like they might have and answer—any answer. I had to run to get away from the questions! People know that I garden since Gabriel sells citrus and other garden produce at our sons store in the same shopping center as Esposito's Garden Center. Ralph Esposito also allows Gabriel and Brooke to sell tomatoes at the front door of his garden center. Gabriel made \$80.00 selling tomatoes in one morning this spring.

On the way home Gabriel asked the big question. "PaPa, when am I going to get my own garden?" The next day it was off to the lumber store to get 10 inch boards for a raised bed garden in his back yard. I bought topsoil to go in the bed. Steve Lawrence used his tractor to fill the raised bed. Steve and his wife Gayle are great camellia growers. The kids now have their own 27 foot long raised bed vegetable garden.



The next Saturday, Scott (Gabriel's dad) is helping Gabriel, Brooke, and I plant the new garden. Gabriel is telling his dad how things should be planted. The kids are experienced gardeners. They have been helping me plant for four years. Their dad had never really planted a garden before.



Gabriel was telling his dad how deep things should be planted and why. I just smiled enjoying it all. A nine year old was instructing his dad on how things should be done. (From the mouths of babes.)

The kids' garden has produced a ton of beans, squash, and cucumbers. I think I have these kids hooked on gardening for life. Guess what they will get to plant next...? A plant called a "camellia." I can hardly wait for planting time this fall. They will have their own camellias named "Brooke" and "Gabriel Maphis" to plant. They will have good blooms, too, I bet. If some of the new gardeners get hooked, it'll only be good for the camellia growing hobby we love.



The kids and I also enjoyed a couple of real neat outside activities this



summer. Mark Crawford invited Scott, Gabriel and Brooke to pick blueberries near his nursery. Steve Lawrence, Howard and Mary Rhodes also enjoyed the blueberry picking. Gabriel picked mostly for his mouth while the rest of us picked berries to bring home. Another day, Mark also invited us (Brooke, Gabriel, and their mother Jenny to go to Byron Georgia to pick peaches. Steve Lawrence and his mother, Esther, went on this outing too. The kids had never picked peaches in an orchard before. They thought peaches came from Publix. We ended up with



about 100 pounds of peaches. We all shared with neighbors, and members of our Sunday School Class. We had lots of peaches to give away. Everyone likes great fresh peaches. Esther Lawrence made homemade peach ice cream for us to enjoy. The ice cream was the best Marilyn and I had ever had. This was a good example of camellia growers getting outside to do something together besides growing camellias.

I have also made a number of other observations this year. You cannot go anywhere without seeing little kids learning



to ride bicycles with training wheels. On your drive to the grocery store, you may see four or five kids learning to ride. I have not seen more than three or four learning to ride in the last 15 years. They are everywhere! You cannot

buy a bicycle anywhere in town. Please watch out for kids and their bicycles when you drive. Also, watch out for those new walkers and runners that seem to be everywhere too. People want to get out of the house.

Another thing I have noticed is the number of people fishing. Tackle stores have sold most everything in the store. Every lake and holding pond has dozens of people drowning worms and crickets. There is an hour wait to launch a boat. Fishing has become a contact sport. People are standing shoulder to shoulder like on the Kenai River in Alaska when the salmon are running. Fishing license sales in Florida and Georgia are up about 50 percent this year. More people are fishing than ever before. It seems people will do anything to get outside.

Lastly: It was really tough to cancel the ACCS Convention this year. I hope this pandemic thing is over soon. I was also wondering if the camellia world will have to cancel club meetings and shows this year. Things do not seem to be getting better yet this summer. If you do have club meetings and shows, they will be to be really different this next blooming season. Good luck!

But someday when everything is a little closer to normal, we as gardeners and camellia growers, will have to look back at the spring of 2020, as a period that was truly unique. No matter where you live in this great country of ours, I can't imagine you've been through anything even remotely similar to what we have all experienced this spring and summer. Stay safe out there, and I hope to see you soon.



*Brooke Maphis*



*Gabriel Maphis*

Photos are from the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society's *Camellia Picture Library*  
Photos provided to the site by Randolph Maphis and Pat Johnson.

## Editor's letter

Richard Mims

I was told by my daughter-in-law's father (and he really believed it) that years are getting shorter and going faster. While science records



that as not true, sometimes I wonder. It seems that when I was a teenager and serving in the Navy that it took me forever to finally become 21 when I could do the things the other sailors were doing. After that, time passed slowly until I was 40 and then it sped up: 50, 60, 70, 80, and now...90. One hundred will probably come amazingly fast and for me it might be best to say, "the sooner, the better." I promised when I took the last A.C.S. judge's certification that I would come back at age 92. I hope that is a promise that I can keep. Of course, my Lord must be willing.

I will continue to try to grow and show camellias, and even when I do not have blooms, go to the shows just to visit with the great friends I have made through the years. I would want to write the names of each of you, but I would never get over it were I to leave out even only one.

We were at the (then Convention location) Myrtle Beach ACCS Board Meeting. The Editor, Jim Darden, (photo at right) from Clinton, North Carolina, resigned when he retired from his teaching position at Sampson Community College and planned to do a lot of travelling. And, Richard, who never loses a good opportunity to keep his mouth shut thought: "Wwwellll, I have edited 14 research studies and started a college newsletter while working at the University of South Carolina, so I will at least get out two or three issues until another Editor volunteers. I did—and the next issue—and



the next issue—and the next— and I’ve gone on for seventeen years. But, you know what!?! I have enjoyed every moment of it. I really loved all the compliments you wonderful ACCS Members have given me. I may have acted like I did not deserve them possibly because I did not, but I am greatly honored and will always appreciate your awarding me your highest honor, the Award of Merit in 2008. I was both surprised and shocked because others were more deserving than I of such a high honor. I was also shocked and surprised when ACCS made me a life member of ACS—and again when a beautiful reticulata received my name. I greatly appreciate and cherish the recognition the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society has given me.

I must give you a fact: while I was the volunteer, the job would not have gone one percent as well had not my daughter, Mary Kay Hall, agreed to be Assistant Editor (pictured at right with daughter Skye Hall). Perhaps she should have been Editor and me the Assistant. While I could have forced myself to improve my computer knowledge and can hardly do



anything without it, Mary Kay was already familiar with layout, was an excellent typist, etc., and I became very dependent and still am upon her. Most of you know Mary Kay from her escorting me to your shows and working hard at our Mid-Carolina shows recording winners on the computer for the show reports. She is also extremely interested in Camellias, but limited time and health issues keep her from pursuing the growing of our beloved flower. I just cannot thank Mary Kay Hall enough for helping me all seventeen years.

I also want to thank each of you who contributed especially, John and Dinh Swanson from Florida who have provided a series of wonderful, interesting material on camellia personalities in the several states making up ACCS. We have tried extremely hard for “balance” and including members from

every state . Others who have done series that helped were Bonnie Serpas from Santee, and Dr. John Bigger from North Augusta. I would hope that participation is great and plenteous for the up and coming new ACCS Editor, J. D. Thomerson, from Valdosta. If not, I do know that he is a good writer and photographer.

Aside: John and I decided his next story for the Journal will be on several people from the Georgia area who live near the new Editor. It is John's idea to write about our great friends in that area. Hopefully, through the years, we will get to read about all of you who have contributed so much to our hobby, Camellias.

Working with the last nine Presidents has been a wonderful experience and I thank each one for helping me out with timely letters for Journals. I looked forward to knowing what each one was going to say.

I congratulate Dr. J.D. Thomerson as the next Editor, who will begin by editing the January 2021 Journal of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. I wish him the very best and that he enjoys, as I have, keeping up with all you great members.

I will put my title and photograph on this as this is the last ACCS Journal for which I will be responsible. My only responsibility now will be to keep tabs on all my good friends in the camellia world. I will not be seeing you as much because of ag..., I mean Coronavirus. Keep safe.

Richard Mims, Editor

*Richard Mims*

From the Atlantic Coast  
Camellia Society's  
*Camellia Picture Library*  
Photo provided to the site  
by Randolph Maphis.



## A Touch of History

by Richard Mims

Following my discharge from the Navy, I bought my first seven camellias—*Pink Perfection*, *Sergeant Barrioux*, *Bleichroda Pink*, *Professor Sargent*, *Duchess of Sutherland*, *Mathotiana*, and *Daikagura*. I really petted them along, and because we had a well with no shortage of water, I would wash each leaf. I would dare a scale or insect to make residence on my Camelias. One day a swarm of honeybees with a new queen took residence on my cherished *Mathotiana* branch and I had to call in my Dad for help. He saved them in a hive to attack me a couple years later when I used a new lawn mower with a sound they did not like. That night, hive entries were blocked with a wet rag and while bees snoozed, the hive was hauled to the woods.

The person who sold me the camellias also wanted to teach me propagation of them, etc. for me to open a camellia nursery to “make a living.” I also started with amaryllis but that is another story. Camellias were in their heyday at that time. Magnolia Gardens and Fruitland Nurseries, among others, were proliferating new varieties and camellias were highly sought after and brought high prices. All the doodads like computers, cellphones, televisions, and most of those things were not invented yet, and people had time to go out and enjoy gardening, and planting camellias. I remember one of my Kiwanis friends asking me: “Are you going to get a television?” I told him, “No, because I do not have time to watch TV.” I had thought the first person who told me the TV had been invented was lying. I did not believe a picture could come through a cable.

Societies, then, were composed of professional people—doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc.—who needed something to do as a hobby. After all, when a person’s working routine requires mostly his/her mind, digging in the dirt helps him/her relax. Modern technologies keep people occupied and prevent them from using some of their time for gardening and activities that

will make them (like me) live longer. This could be a major reason for suicides—the modern technology prevents relaxing minds to give brains a rest. You do not have to worry about thinking about why society membership is so low ever again. Now you know. I think years from now babies will be born with a telephone that does games and everything else hanging from an ear.

I must tell you something about the club I joined in 1956—The Men’s Camellia Club of Columbia, S.C. I remember all the discussions as to whether to admit women or not. The Men’s Camellia Club was somewhat snobbish when it came to letting women join although many women were spouses who helped with camellias; prepped them for shows; kept us from spending too much money on camellias—the women were actually needed! Something I know now that would have prompted me to join in the discussions then (I would not converse on the subject because I was the youngster in the club and still single with marriage not even in sight): I just happened to find on the internet copies of *The Camellian*, which were originally sent to only members of the South Carolina Camellia Society. The Secretary and Treasurer of the Society was Frank Griffin who held the copyright and was Editor of *The Camellian*. I was incredibly surprised to see on Page 77 of the December 1950 issue, a story by Miss Erin Kohn of Columbia, S.C. titled “—A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT—The Columbia Garden Club’s CAMELLIA SHOW.” This woman’s club “had for fifteen years exclusive of two war years and two unexpected freezes, brought this extra to Columbia in the form of an annual camellia show.” She said, “Columbia has long been camellia conscious, but there has probably never been any other one stimulus so generally received and appreciated as these showings of this oriental beauty in all its queenly variety” (there were over 1400 varieties, then). “Hundreds of varieties have been displayed from time to time that have been the envy of all who viewed them.” She went on to say that the first show in 1941 (a few years before the ACS Charter) “was in the parlors of the old Hampton-Preston Mansion.” It was successful and set a precedent renewed annually. There were two commercial exhibits—Mr. Bodie from nearby Leesville and Fruitland Nursery from

Augusta. This is also interesting: “this first show was a trial, there were no precedents, no schedules, no criteria to facilitate handling of this show. Some things were tragic, but in retrospect they were amusing.”

Wow! At age 26, had I been armed with this information, I could have chimed in when the members were discussing admitting women and said “Why don’t we ask the women who started this thing to join and show us how to REALLY put on a show.”

The Men voted positive and the club became The Mid-Carolina Camellia Society which consisted then mostly of couples. Unmarried me felt very out of place.

Believe me, shows back then were more formal. Because most members were professionals, as I mentioned above, men and women made camellia shows fashionable. Men always wore suits and ties at parties and even meetings. Ladies wore hats, gloves, mink, and beaver stoles. The last person I know who kept up this tradition was Mrs. Marie (Paul) Dahlen from Aiken. Had my wife not been a teacher with her own money, she probably would have had to stay home.

I remember that back in the fifties and sixties all of us enthusiasts were looking for new and show winning camellias. Enthusiasts made camellia buying trips together. Many jokingly (or not) accused others of “stealing scions.” Seedlings were kept close since so many growers and show participants wanted to buy plants, the hybridizer could earn money. Many were even patented. If I remember correctly, the person who would sneak scions was called a Jay Bird because strange things have been found in Blue Jay’s nests. Mr. Ellis seemed to be a go-to guy for scions because somehow, he turned up with any new, sought after varieties or variegations. For that reason, everyone (even in writing) called him Jay Bird. I think Mr. Ellis was so proud of that name that he passed it on to his son, Jay. We will have to ask Jay if that is true.

We looked especially for the earliest blooming varieties because shows at State fairs were usually in fall and the shows were put on with many specimens of only a few varieties because the clubs had many members. Shows back then were



called Camellia and Sasanqua shows. People were about equally involved in the growing of both for early shows so much that duplicate trophies were given to each. Imagine how excited all of us were when Dr. Herbert Racoff introduced us to a long-held secret in California, gibberellic acid. Now fall shows would be more interesting with varieties from all seasons.

Any person who got a new, beautiful variety was the envy of all. Stories about value and history of new tulips in Holland parallel. The old-timers were so jealous of a new variety that I heard one reputable judge say: "That bloom is too new a flower to go to the head table." Well, it went, in spite of that judge. It was good to have two judges who did not agree.

Next on the show circuit was gibbed versus non gibbed. Some shows awarded gibbed, not gibbed, and local with same awards—(expensive!). Shows were at first required to separate; but more difficulty putting on shows, extra work, and trophy expenses finally won. Gib was considered "just another form of fertilizer." Having helped put on a lot of these shows, I assure you it was extremely hard WORK to get blooms ready in time for judging. It was good back then that societies were large with young active members who did not mind work. A great setback was that there was dissention on any great un-gibbed flower that went to head table. Many would say, it is gibbed!!! Somebody has learned to gib without breaking out the growth bud!!! Really, many people were accused of "cheating."

So many new camellias were being registered that few Sasanquas were entered. The big sasanqua growers in our area got incredibly angry when equal awards stopped and they just quit with the shows. Sasanquas have now reverted to a small section with one award and in some shows it is not sasanqua at all but "Best Species." Because Sasanqua blooms last only a day and shed, one of the most beautiful things about them in a landscape is a colorful ground covering which is now frowned upon because of petal blight. You should know the early importance of sasanqua: besides being excellent grafting stock that withstands wet soil better than camellias, most were early bloomers and could be shown in fall shows.

The next big thing was hybrids. Professionals and amateurs were crossing pollen with anything that bloomed at the same time. Some even preserved pollen from different blooming periods in refrigerators. People back then thought that hybrids would eventually become the best thing that ever happened in the camellia world. The delicate, iridescent colors were greatly sought after. I think, better has been Reticulata hybrids with great color, sheen, and SIZE.

Back in early days, camellias were treasured throughout a show whether they were on the head table or not. There would always be someone standing around watching viewers and you would hear a gruff voice, please do not touch the blooms or please do not smell the blooms. Now we do not worry about that. In fact, it gives me pleasure to see a youngster at a show touch a beautiful bloom and look up at his parent with an expression of surprised wonder and say, “Momma, it’s real!” The persons who usually touch and smell at shows are ones who know absolutely nothing about camellias, and you can use this as an opportunity to tell them. A talk with them without saying, “Don’t touch,” might get a new camellia enthusiast. Positive talk is always best.

That brings me to “smell.” Yes, camellias have been bred to include a few with pleasant odors. Not many, but enough that some shows exhibit a special section for people to smell and be amazed. The hybridizing of good, aromatic camellias seems rare.

Yes, we have had dyed blooms in shows and even on the ACS web site to identify a bloom. Dyeing was mostly used to camouflage a white speck or two which spoiled a variegated bloom. I have seen many dyed pinker or redder before it was outlawed by ACS. Other things happen at times: one jokester in Columbia put a small head of cabbage on camellia leaves and called it his new camellia, “Cabbage” (not to be confused with *Cabeza de Vaca*). He wanted to be certain his camellia would be considered “as big as a head of cabbage.” I saw another put a Confederate Rose wired on camellia leaves to try to fool the judges. This almost worked because one judge had never seen a Confederate Rose.

My life has been so much better having known the camellia and especially having known other people who also love it. I am afraid, however, that fast moving, new and improved technology and the ever present “have it now” attitude will make our hobby participants dwindle even more.



My helpers on that year's endeavor to cover one of my camellia greenhouses are:  
Randy Hall,  
Skye Hall,  
Eric Shouse,  
and Iain Hall)

Note the Confederate Rose blooming in the background!



## **Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall ... All you have to do is ....?**

This is a list by months of tips for caring for camellias based on past issues of the Mid-Carolina Camellia Society's Yearbook (tips do not change much through the years).

Horticulture Growing Tips for Camellias.

January through December — All Year Long!:

- Keep plants watered.
- Control Ants, Scales, and any other Pests.  
(Ants consider aphids their milk cows. They swipe off and eat a sweet substance from aphids' bellies. Ants and the wind are major spreaders of scale. Ants have been found to take their wards into their holes to a correct temperature depth to protect them during the winter and bring them out when weather conditions permit. Lower Camellia branches should be pruned and never touch ground to provide a ladder for ants and other pests. Aphids are most prevalent on new growth in spring, and spider mites are more prevalent during the heat of summer and early fall. Use recommended sprays for chewing insects and fungus. The latest are probably mentioned in your camellia publications.)

(I've always considered the show season to begin in August since that is when most growers begin gibbing for the shows. However, I've put August at the end since this issue comes out in September. Also, these tips were mainly written for outside growers since our local society consists mainly of outside growers)

### **GROWING TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER**

- Continue to gib.
- Check temperature of refrigerator to store show blooms. (40 degrees is ideal)
- Check supply of Clear Set and Chrysal (to provide maxi-

mum life for cut blooms). (NOTE: These might need updating by a present-day expert.)

- End of month – spray for tea scale. (NOTE: Old timers depended on Florida Volck, used on citrus, which burned plants in temperatures over 90 degrees. Now there is a paraffin summer oil that does not “do plants in” when used during summer although its directions are below 90 degrees.)
- Continue to disbud. (NOTE: It does not hurt plants and helps them grow larger flowers when inside and spindly growth that might have buds be pruned off and save time in disbudding.)
- Fertilize with 0-14-14 to harden off plants and provide nutrients for larger blooms.

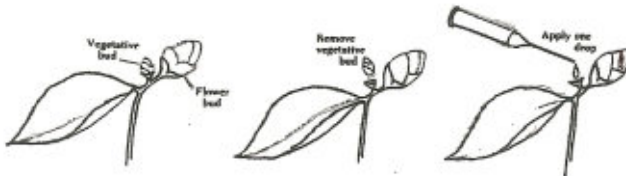
#### GROWING TIPS FOR OCTOBER (outside growing)

- Enter blooms on morning of \_\_\_\_ (the first show.) (NOTE: Alas, this date cannot be specified for this year because The South Carolina State Fair is going to be a drive-through event due to Covid-19. Columbia’s annual venue of 50 plus years isn’t available.)
- Do light pruning.
- Continue to disbud. (Note: regardless of how hard you try to keep up with this, new ones will grow.)
- Optional: Fertilize with blood meal for deeper colors in blooms, especially solid colored blooms.

### How to Chemically Treat a Camellia Bud

#### With Giberellic Acid

(This causes the bud to open early)



### GROWING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER (outside growers)

- STOP GIBBING. (NOTE: You do not want your blooms outside to bloom during the coldest months of winter other than naturally. Gib makes swelling buds from tight buds that withstand cold better.) If growing under protection, then continue gibbing through December for Christmas flowers and spring shows.
- Go out often and talk to your camellias, play them music, tell them how much you love them and the consequences if they do not produce show blooms. Threaten them with forgetting they are under your care.

### GROWING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

- Remember destructive petal blight and pick up spent blooms daily if possible. With many plants, use a vacuum.
- Continue gibbing if growing in a greenhouse where swollen buds are not easily killed by cold.

### GROWING TIPS FOR JANUARY

- Attend every show you can even if you do not have exhibition flowers.
- Lists can be made of wanted varieties, and from whom you can request special scions.
- Also, familiarize and learn to identify varieties, typical varietal blooms and study why Judges chose a certain flower—(The best part of a show is accepting the judge's decisions and just enjoying the wonderful camellia friends around you.)
- Line up scions. (Do not be hesitant to ask for choice varieties)
- Get grafting tools ready and begin grafting near the end of the month.

### GROWING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

- Attend every show you can even if you do not have exhibition flowers.
- Get scions for grafting. Be certain the scions you select will

perform for outside growers. The best way is to get scions from outside growers—especially *reticulatas* (some will only grow inside)

- This is the best month for grafting in the area of South Carolina. Others should find out from grafters in your area the best dates. I imagine Florida would be earlier, and Virginia, later. Keeping scions for a reasonable time refrigerated to keep tight buds can extend grafting season. Keep grafts in at least 50% shade.

### GROWING TIPS FOR MARCH

- Spray with fungicide. Die back, the worst disease a camellia can get, is a fungus. There are hose-end sprayers and sprays that can make this fast work.
- Continue to graft being certain the bud is dormant (use refrigerated material) or scions from colder growing zones.
- Do heavy pruning. Now is the time to start a new camellia from one that has outgrown its space. A camellia is different from most plants that thrive with early and winter pruning. A camellia is pruned sparsely year-round but heavy and drastic pruning is best done a few weeks before time for the buds to swell.

### GROWING TIPS FOR APRIL

- Spray with fungicide.
- Mulch plants. Mulch should only a couple inches deep. Deep mulch and piled up pine straw act as a thatched roof on a house and will cause water to run away from the plant roots.
- Continue heavy pruning.
- Begin air layering (See page 23)

### GROWING TIPS FOR MAY

- Check grafts. When grafts show signs of growing, harden off slowly, remove cover. Shade new grafts and keep humidity up.
- Continue air-layering.
- Spray for chewing insects, aphids, and spider mites. Any

holes in leaves, dusty looking, curled up, damaged new growth cause a plant to cry out—spray me.

### GROWING TIPS FOR JUNE

- Spray for chewing insects and aphids.
- Spray NEW GRAFTS with fungicide.

### GROWING TIPS FOR JULY

- Don't let those pests mess around on your new growth. Spray!
- July and August are good months for rooting cuttings. Use new wood that has hardened and has a good terminal bud.

### GROWING TIPS FOR AUGUST

- Begin gibbing for early shows in September. These shows would be limited to extremely early varieties and sasanquas. Gib a few buds each week until about November 1. Most camellias will bloom 30-60 days after gibbing.
- Disbud. Pinch off multiple buds and thin buds on plants. Do not leave more than one bud on a terminal. If spindly growth has been removed, your bloom will be on a stem that supports it.



Granddaughter Skye Hall instructs Richard!



## Air Layering

1. Completely remove a ring of bark including cambium layer from section of branch to be rooted. Ring should be about 2 or 2½ times as wide as the diameter of the branch. Trunk of branch may be ¼" or more and 1" in diameter.



2. Wet ball of sphagnum moss and place it so it covers the cut evenly. Wring out excess moisture. On a small plant the ball will be about 2" in diameter.

3. Place around the ball of moss a piece of aluminum foil about 6"x8". Twist ends of the foil around the trunk to hold the ball in place. During periods of heavy rainfall, it helps to remove water by squeezing the ball.



4. When roots are established, cut off the branch below the ball. Remove the foil and plant in a pot of good soil. If the layering is done in April or May, they should be ready to pot by September or October.

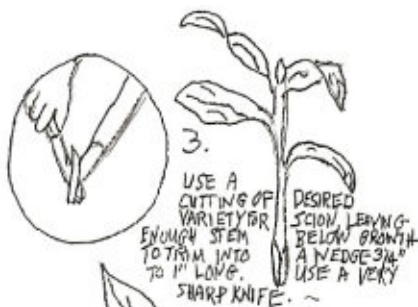
# PROPAGATING CAMELIAS BY GRAFTING



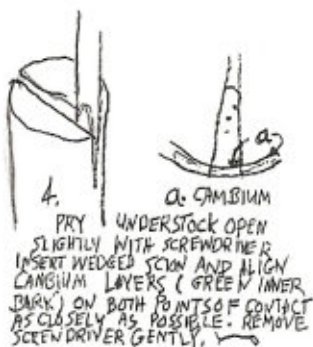
1. UNDERSTOCK 1/2" + UP. CUT CLEANLY ABOUT 2" ABOVE THE GROUND AND SMOOTH TOP OF STUMP WITH KNIFE. SLIT STUMP ABOUT 1" WITH KNIFE. A SLOPING CUT WILL HEAL OVER MORE QUICKLY THAN A SQUARE CUT. THE BEST GRAFTING SEASON IS JUST BEFORE NEW GROWTH IN THE SPRING. ~



2. NOTCH SMOOTHEST SIDE OF UNDERSTOCK WITH KNIFE. INSERT SCREWDRIVER SLIGHTLY TO HOLD SPLIT OPEN. ~



3. USE A CUTTING OF VARIETY OR ENOUGH STEM TO TRIM INTO TO 1" LONG. DESIRED SCION, LEAVING BELOW GROWTH A WEDGE 3/16" USE A VERY SHARP KNIFE. ~



4. PRY UNDERSTOCK OPEN SLIGHTLY WITH SCREWDRIVER. INSERT WEDGED SCION AND ALIGN CAMBIUM LAYERS (GREEN INNER DARK) ON BOTH POINTS OF CONTACT AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE. REMOVE SCREWDRIVER GENTLY. ~



5. SHOWING THE SCION IN PROPER POSITION. PAINTING TOP OF STUMP WITH A PRUNING PAINT WILL PROMOTE HEALING AND RETARD FUNGUS & DISEASE. ~



6. PRESS A WIDE-MOUTHED CLEAR GLASS JAR OVER THE FINISHED GRAFT. PROTECT FROM DIRECT RAYS OF SUN. SCION SHOULD BEGIN GROWTH IN 4 TO 8 WEEKS. REMOVE JAR AS SOON AS GROWTH STARTS. IT IS WELL TO PROTECT FROM DIRECT SUN THE FIRST SUMMER. KEEP MOIST. REMOVE ALL NEW GROWTH FROM UNDERSTOCK. ~

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