

# HOME GARDENING

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# Plan to See

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# LETTERS

I have called attention of the various units of the federation to your charming and most helpful magazine. Each club will send in subscriptions for its units.

My club, Rose Garden Club, has twelve subscribers. I am enclosing my check to cover the twelve dollars due you. Our region meeting comes at this time and the extra six dollars we made in the subscriptions takes care of the costs the club would have to defray, so you can see we really appreciate the opportunity to make the additional money as well as the enjoyment we will get from the magazine itself.

In talking to the local professional growers we find your magazine highly recommended. I shall be glad to recommend it to anyone interested in growing and plant culture in this part of the United States. It's TOPS!

Mrs. Chris J. Sherlock, Pres.  
Montgomery Federation of  
Garden Clubs  
Montgomery 6, Alabama

I have enjoyed my HOME GARDENING and have learned a lot through it. Someone asked about Gerberas in the December 1946 issue. I have had quite a bit of luck with my plants which I planted in the spring of 1946.

They are in a semi-shady bed, well drained. I keep the earth around them loose and do not let it get over the crown of the plants. I give them Vigoro occasionally. I have beautiful flowers on stems about two feet long, and thick foliage.

Mrs. Edwin F. Beck  
New Orleans

I find your magazine of great interest and read it from cover to cover. The only thing I could criticise about the articles is no mention is ever made as to where the plants can be bought.

Mrs. H. M. Strauss  
Birmingham, Alabama

We devour your every issue, all so interesting.

Niceville, Florida  
Edward J. Freiwald

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# HOME and GARDEN Protection Tips

PACIFIC COAST GARDENS  
JANUARY 1947

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*For a better garden come summer... better go after  
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## This Month's Cover

The fine camellia drawing on the cover of HOME GARDENING this month is from the rare botanical work. *Amoenitatum Exoticarum* by Dr. Engelbert Kaempfer. It is one of a number of drawings of plants done in Japan in 1690-91 by this scientist and artist who was a celebrated doctor, botanist and traveller of his day. In the present work, which actually was published by another famous botanist, Dr. Hans Sloane of London, in 1712, and in his "History of Japan", published in 1727, Kaempfer gave us drawings of the medicinal, commercial and ornamental plants of Japan and the other countries he visited between 1683 and 1694.

Some time ago, the writer decided that the drawings of many of the old botanical works were just too beautiful to be hidden away out of sight, so a collection of photographs was begun for the purpose of bringing the good ones back to light.

*William Lanier Hunt*

## Our 10,000th Subscriber

During the month of December HOME GARDENING recorded its 10,000th subscription, thereby reaching the goal for 1946 set by its Circulation Department. The Fruitland Nurseries of Augusta, Georgia, marked the occasion by presenting a beautiful grafted camellia plant to No. 10,000—Mrs. L. M. Pinckney, 2 Lowndes Street, Charleston, S. C.

The selection is White Cloud, one of Fruitland's own originations, a large semi-double white camellia with blossoms measuring 4.5 inches in diameter. Mrs. Pinckney is one of the few gardeners who can claim ownership to the fine new camellia offered this year for the first time.

Congratulations, Mrs. Pinckney, and thanks to Fruitland Nurseries for their recognition of the steady growth of the Garden Magazine of the South.

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## Dates To Remember

- January 16-17. New Iberia, La. Camellia Show by the New Iberia Garden Club.
- January 17. Lafayette, La. Camellia Pageant staged by Southwestern Louisiana Institute.
- January 18. Lafayette, La. Annual Meeting of Louisiana Camellia Society.
- January 18-19. Lafayette, La. Camellia Show by the Louisiana Camellia Society.
- January 18-19. Lakeland, Fla. Camellia Show by The Lakeland Garden Club at the Community Center Building.
- January 18-19. Plaquemine, La. Camellia Show by the Iberville Camellia Society, Inc.
- January 20-21. Pensacola, Fla. Camellia Show by the Men's Camellia Club of Escambia County.
- January 20-February 1. Williamsburg, Va. Colonial Williamsburg Flower and Garden Symposium.
- January 25-26. Baton Rouge, La. Camellia Show by the Baton Rouge Camellia Society.
- January 25-26. Jacksonville, Fla. Camellia Show by The Garden Club of Jacksonville at the Woman's Club.
- January 25-26. Mobile, Ala. Camellia Show by the Men's Camellia Club of Mobile.
- January 26. Thibodaux, La. Camellia Show by the Thibodaux Woman's Club.
- February 1-2. New Orleans. Camellia Show by New Orleans Garden Society.
- February 4. Atlanta, Ga. Camellia Show by the Camellia Show Association, auspices of the Garden Clubs of Atlanta.
- February 8-9. Savannah, Ga. Annual Camellia Show.
- February 8-9. New Orleans. Camellia Show by the Men's Camellia Club at McMinn High School.
- February 8-9. Hattiesburg, Miss. Camellia Show by the Hattiesburg Camellia Society.
- February 15-16. Charleston, S. C. Camellia Show by the Garden Club of Charleston.
- February 15-16. Augusta, Ga. Annual Camellia Show by Sand Hills Garden Club.
- February 22-23. Macon, Ga. Middle Georgia Camellia Show.
- February 22-23. Columbia, S. C. Camellia Show by the Columbia Garden Club.
- February 22-23. Laurel, Miss. Camellia Show by the Laurel Garden Club at the Lauren Rogers Library.
- March 8-9. Sacramento, Calif. Camellia Show by the Camellia Society of Sacramento. California State Fair Grounds in the Hall of Flowers.
- March 8-9 and 15-16. Houston, Texas. Azalea Trail by the River Oaks Garden Club.
- March 14. Greenwood, Miss. Daffodil and Camellia Show by the Greenwood Garden Club.
- March 16-23. Chicago, Ill. National Flower and Garden Show.
- March 17-27. New York City. International Flower Show.
- March 19. Winter Haven, Florida. Thirteenth Annual Flower Show by the Garden Club of Winter Haven.
- March 22-23. Lakeland, Fla. General Flower Show by The Lakeland Garden Club.
- April 10-12. Corpus Christi, Texas. Annual Meeting of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.
- April 11. Greenwood, Miss. Iris Show by the Greenwood Garden Club.
- April 13 (2 weeks or more). New Orleans. Spring Fiesta by the New Orleans Spring Fiesta Association, 546 St. Peter St.
- April 28-May 3. Virginia. Garden Week in Virginia, sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia.

JANUARY



We are offering you two fine groups of Camellias this month, which will be an excellent start for a "newcomer", or an addition to a Camellia fancier's collection. These plants are especially fine stock. Many are budded and will bloom this season. Some varieties have already bloomed. All of them will bear fine blossoms next year.

### Group 1

18" to 24" Alba Plena, white; Pink Perfection, pink; Brilliant Red, red; Chandleri Elegans, variegated.

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### Group 2

26" to 32" Augusta Wilson, pink; 18" to 24" Emperor of Russia, red; 22" to 28" Waterloo, white; 22" to 26" Fanny Bollis, variegated.

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Growers of the better varieties.  
Container grown camellias exclusively.



# HOME GARDENING

for the South

Volume VII

JANUARY 1947

No. 1

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Editor-in-Chief .....	CAMILLA BRADLEY
Associate Editors .....	EVA NOBLE AND CAROLINE DORMON
Horticulture .....	IRA S. NELSON
Photography .....	ROBERT KUSHNER
Advertising .....	MARY HUDSON
Circulation .....	WARREN L. STERN

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OUR desk pad is so full of notations to pass on to our readers of HOME GARDENING that the editorial page becomes a bulletin board this month. The biggest news item is an addition to our editorial staff. Ira S. Nelson, Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, has accepted the position of Horticultural Editor of HOME GARDENING. Mr. Nelson has been a contributor to HOME GARDENING for many years and is well known to our readers for his articles on Louisiana Iris and Camellias. He is in charge of the test gardens at Lafayette for the American Iris Society and also of the hemerocallis test gardens and will keep us informed on the best of new varieties in these popular plants. We feel very secure in having "Ike" Nelson to answer the "hard ones" in the Question Box and to keep us up to date on the best methods of planting and caring for Southern gardens.



HOME GARDENING starts the New Year with several changes, the most obvious of which is a reduction in size. We believe that the new dimensions make the magazine easier to handle; certainly they save paper without sacrificing a line of reading matter. The size of the printed page remains the same, the only reduction being in the width of the margins.

We don't promise that the departure from the circular photograph on the front cover is permanent. We made an exception this month to accommodate Kaempfer's Camellia print.



OUR new policy is to publish HOME GARDENING monthly, except August, in order to give the overworked staff more time to devote to the fall and winter issues. The July and August issues will be combined in a mid-summer number, giving the hot weather care of gardens in this subtropical climate. All mid-summer information will be compiled in one volume and when fall planting starts we hope to have a bigger and better guide to southern gardening for you.



AT THE turn of the year we wish the best of everything to our subscribers and advertisers—old and new. As in the past, we invite your suggestions for better service and thank you for your loyal support. To all of you who have stood by us through the trials of war and readjustment, we hope your patience will be rewarded. We face 1947 with the steadfast resolution to give you the best to be had on Southern gardening.

*Camille Bradley*

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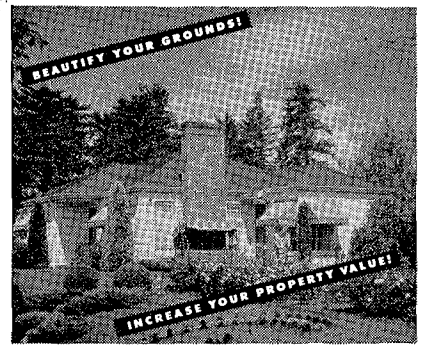
*Azalea and Camellia*

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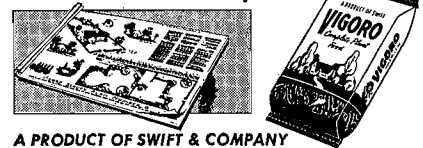
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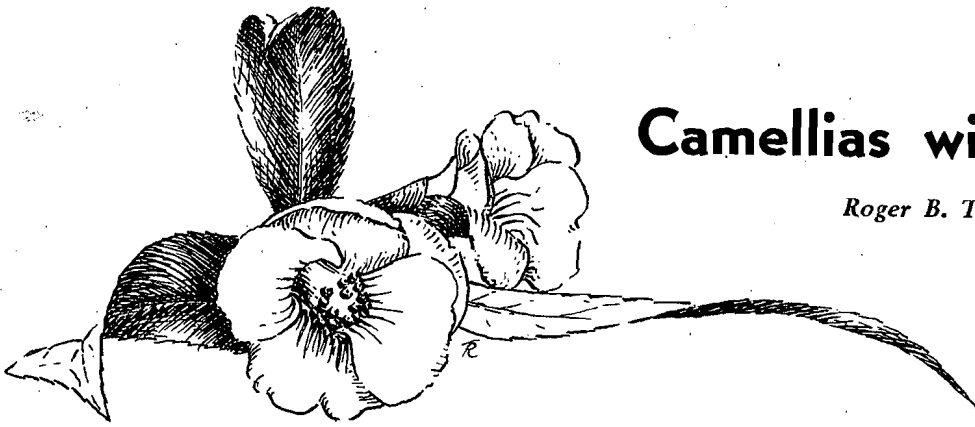
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# Camellias with Stamens

Roger B. Thompson



When the first *Camellia japonica* was brought to Europe in the middle of the eighteenth century it must have created a sensation: the blossom was large as compared with the blooms of other flowering shrubs; it was a bright rosy red, still a rare enough color among the shrubbery to cause excitement; and it bloomed at a season when others had long since ceased. The first sight of a white *Alba Plena*, brought from the Orient in 1792, must have evoked pure ecstasy.

The former is known to botanists as a perfect flower. It has both stamens and a pistil, and is capable of producing seed. The latter, because its stamens have been transformed into a great number of additional petals, cannot reproduce itself and is entirely dependent upon the hand of man for its perpetuation. These imbricated blooms became known to florists and nurserymen as "perfections" because of their regularity of form, and were sought after by many growers to the exclusion of all others. Hundreds of varieties of these "perfections" had been produced by the middle of the nineteenth century and the sight of these hundreds of precise blooms with such meager

differences of petaline structure, size, and coloration may have contributed to the camellia's temporary fall from favor not many years after.

Since the chances that any seedling will produce an outstanding flower or some form radically different from its parents is extremely small, countless singles and semi-doubles must have been grown and discarded. This, in general, is a fortunate circumstance, for unless the selector exercises a high degree of discrimination our gardens would soon be cluttered with a multitude of plants scarcely more valuable than weeds. Though some growers even in those times appreciated informal types such as *Doncklaeri* and *Elegans Chandleri*, it seems probable that numerous others approaching their quality may have bloomed once and been cut down to serve as root stock for a "perfection."

Most of the singles we know today have come from chance seedlings which arose in some dooryard and grew unattended to maturity; from the Japanese, to whom magnitude and symmetry of form have never been criterions of beauty; and to the recent selectors in our own

country who recognize beauty wherever they find it. They usually bloom early and abundantly, providing a mass of color in the garden while most of the doubles are exhibiting but a sample of their glory in a few scattered spots.

These camellias with stamens have certain very marked and pleasing contrasts to the regularity of the "perfections." Their petals are in infinite variety, narrow or broad, incurved, folded back or swirling in all imaginable contours. Their stamens in tall column, broad corona, or broken into fascicles and partially transformed into petaloids, add sweep of line or stable mass. Their dots of anthers, bursting with pale or golden pollen, contribute a brief glory, lighting white petals with their reflected gleam, warming pink ones to a resplendent glow.

These anthers give a new character to the entire flower, making it vivid and alive, quite the opposite of the perfect doubles which so often have no more character than an Easterlily which some misguided florist has carefully emasculated lest the exuberant pollen stain the pure whiteness of its petals, thereby leaving it barren, cold and utterly without the breath of life.

## At the top of this page:

*SATOME*, probably not a variety of *Camellia japonica* at all but belongs to the species *C. saluenensis*. Its clear pink blossoms literally cover the bushes for a period of two or three weeks in midwinter.

On the opposite page, beginning at the top and reading from left to right:

*WAKENOURA*, a deep red with lightly crinkled petals and sharply serrated, twisted leaves. The habit of growth is tall and upright. It also produces variegated flowers with dark red stripes on a lighter ground, though usually the colors are distinct on separate bushes. *FRED SANDER* is somewhat similar to the red form but the foliage is

different, the blooms larger and the petals cut in a sharp fringe.

*YAMOTO-NISHIKI*, a single white with the distinction of a rose petal stripe on one or two petals. Sometimes there will be a bloom entirely pink.

*KINRYO-TSUBAKI*, chiefly notable for the fish-tail formation of its leaves, though the pink blossom with its column of white stamens is unusual and attractive.

*C. JAPONICA*, the sort of flower, a bell shaped five-petal single, which grew in China as the ancestor of the extravagantly altered blooms we grow today.

*CAPRICE*, a semi-double white of unusual form, the central petals, upright and intermixed with stamens.

*BON-SHIRATIMA*, a pure white, bowl shaped single with large, waxy petals and a great mass of stamens crowned with golden anthers.

*ORANDA-GASA*, an immense single with broad petals and large crown of stamens, opening flat as a saucer. The color is at first nearly white with a slight pink flush at the edges. Later in the season the color deepens considerably, though always shading from a dark edge to nearly white at the center. Blossoms are magnificently displayed against the small, dark, shining foliage.

\*Sketches are nearly natural size. The blossoms were obtained from plants in the collection of Mr. E. A. McIlhenny at Avery Island, Louisiana. Many of them are his importations from Japan.





R. Thompson

# Root-Grafting Camellias\*

Ira S. Nelson

Associate Professor of Horticulture  
Southwestern Louisiana Institute

The one question that Camellia fans are most frequently asking each other this year is, "Where can I get root stock?" The answer usually is, "There just is none available." This situation has been brought about by a series of factors related to the war and also by the tremendous increase in the number of amateurs who are doing their own grafting.

Without doubt there will be an adequate supply of fine root stock available three or four years hence. Meanwhile, we must either sit and wait or else explore other methods of propagation which are faster than rooting cuttings.

Root grafting, a horticultural practice long used with deciduous material offers considerable promise in relieving the shortage of root-stock. Special care is necessary to get satisfactory results but this care will yield the equivalent of eighteen to twenty-four months growth of a rooted cutting in nine months.

## Equipment

A special propagating house or propagating box is advisable. This may be any size but should provide good drainage, a saturated or near saturated atmosphere and light. Too often propagation beds do not receive enough light. Shading is done only because it reduces temperature. Temperatures as high as 120° F. are satisfactory provided the humidity is high enough. A tight fitting propagating house or propagating box is necessary to maintain high humidity.

A sharp knife, a pair of pruning shears, and a spade are all the nec-

essary tools. A bucket of water for washing the roots before grafting makes the process more pleasant.

## Procedure

When a plant is dug, we leave a large quantity of roots in the ground. These roots are a total waste if we do not dig them and use them for root grafting. No special care need be exercised in digging the roots other than to avoid needless bruising of them. Once dug, they may be stored in moist sawdust for several weeks or used at once.

The pieces of root should be washed clean of soil and cut into segments that are three to four inches in length. All badly damaged areas should be cut out and discarded. The top of the segment of root should if possible be straight. This makes the cutting of the cleft easier.

The technique of setting the graft is identical to that used in the conventional cleft graft so frequently used with Camellias. The scions should be a minimum of three inches long, however. No wax,

mud, or other protective coating of the graft wound is needed since the graft is covered by the propagating medium. Once the union is made, it may be advisable to tie it with raffia, string, or a grafting rubber. Except when the root segment is quite small, the cleft is usually strong enough to pinch the scion firmly in place.

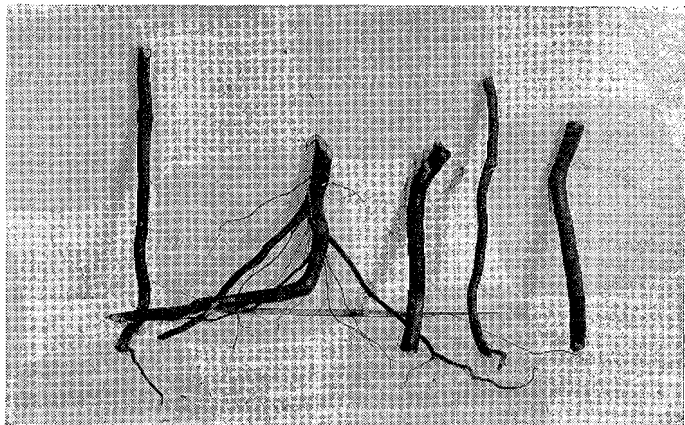
## Care of the Graft

Upon completion of the graft, it is placed in the propagating medium deep enough to cover all except the top one-third to one-fourth of the scion. A mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half sand has given the writer best results. This should be a little deeper than the medium used for cuttings in order to accommodate the additional length caused by the root segment.

## Development of the Graft

The graft callus will be well started in about thirty days if conditions are favorable. This can be speeded up by applying a rooting compound (any commercial brand suitable for Camellia cuttings) to

Camellia Roots to be used as Grafting Stock



\*Official publication of the Louisiana Camellia Society.

the scion wedge just prior to making the graft. By the time the grafts have been in the propagating bed sixty days, new roots will be developing nicely from the old root segment. The new roots normally arise at the wound on the bottom of the root segment. They may, however, arise from any point along the root segment. If roots develop on the upper portion of the old root segment, it is probably because the propagating medium is not draining well.

By the end of ninety days the root graft should be not only thoroughly united but should have developed a vigorous system of new roots.

The grafts are now ready to remove from the propagation bench and plant in the soil. Particular

care should be taken to dig the grafts out of the propagating bed in such a manner that the new root system remains intact. These are the important roots as they will be the ones through which the new plant will absorb minerals and water. If they are destroyed, growth will be greatly retarded.

Assuming favorable growing conditions, the growth of the root grafts will be directly proportional to the amount of new roots developed in the propagating bed. In one year's time it is possible to get a full 16 inches of growth and a branched plant.

Extra large or branched roots do not necessarily give more growth. Roots taken from vigorous plants are better than those taken from weak plants.

### When to Graft

It is obvious that new growth is dependent on new root development. Therefore, root grafting should be done at least ninety days prior to the time new growth starts. It is preferable to do it earlier.

### Advisability of Root Grafting

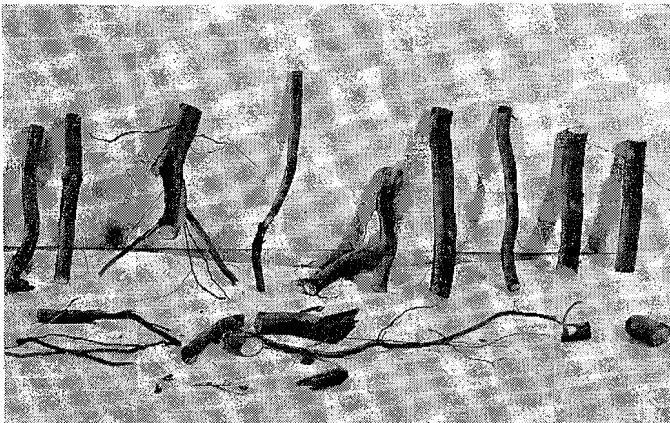
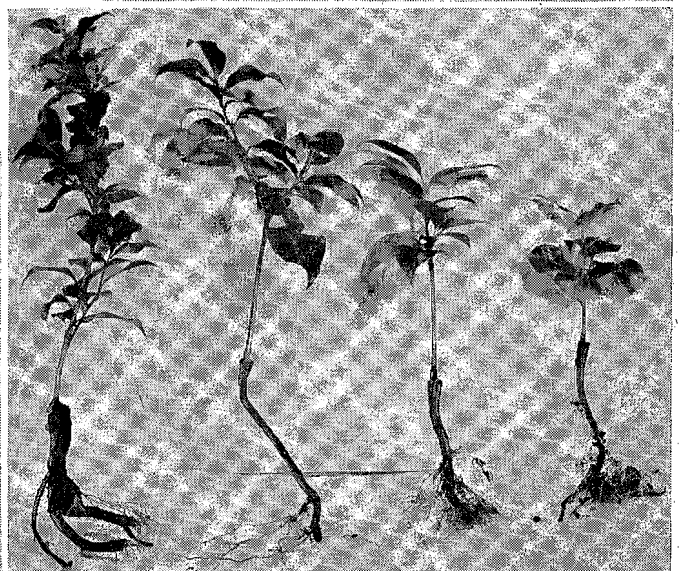
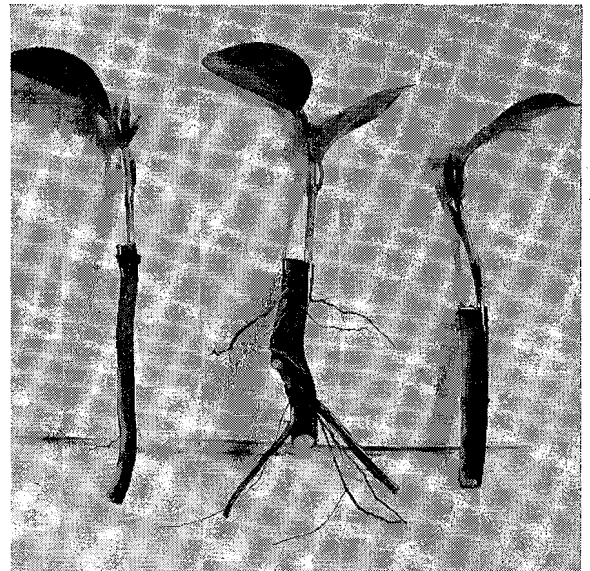
Probably root grafting will be restricted to the standard and not too rare varieties because of the amount of scion wood necessary. Such varieties as Alba Plena, Pink Perfection and Mathotiana are good bets for this type of propagation. Even though the root segment may not unite with the scion, the scion may callus over and produce roots of its own. The root graft is really a cutting with a piece of old root added below it to boost it along.

Lower Left. Root sections ready to graft. Trimmings in foreground.

Upper Right. Root grafts ready to place in propagating bed.

Lower Right. Photographed nine months after grafting. All four plants were placed in propagating bed at same time. Three months later, after root development had taken place but before top growth started, plants 1 and 2 were transplanted to soil.

Plants 3 and 4 remained in the propagating medium for nine months. Plants 1 and 2 were grown in the propagating medium for three months, in soil for six months.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BLUE

# You Did Control Azalea Blight

*Cynthia Westcott*

*The Plant Doctor*

A year ago, when spraying materials for the control of azalea flower spot or petal blight were first put on the market, we were dubious about their effectiveness in the hands of the general public. I feared that you would be too busy to start on time, that you would run out of chemicals in the middle of the season, that you would forget to rinse the sprayer, would delay too long between sprays, and so on. And I challenged you to prove me wrong! Well, you did, or at least many of you did, and I am ready to eat my words.

Some gardeners were content with a week or two of bloom instead of a spraying program, some started and fell by the wayside, but many of you completed a successful season, having flowers weeks longer than your neighbors did. And you got results whether you were a small backyard gardener using a knapsack sprayer, or a park superintendent with power apparatus.

Here is a sampling taken from observations while I was travelling through the South, and from letters received since then. Starting in Texas and working east:

**HOUSTON, TEXAS:** The Blume System Tree Experts were so successful with experimental spraying on a large private estate they plan to continue on a commercial basis this year.

**ORANGE, TEXAS:** Mr. H. J. Latcher Stark reported good control with power apparatus at *Shangri-la*, while making the important observation that it was possible to use too much pressure and material. When the pressure was cut from 300 to 100 pounds, and a finer mist spray provided, the amount of material needed for one application was reduced from 600 to 200 gallons, with better results

on the flowers. When rainy weather delayed spraying for about five days there was some infection.

**LAFAYETTE, LA.:** Professor H. K. Riley of Southwestern Louisiana Institute had perfect protection of Pride of Mobile azaleas along the Boulevard while unsprayed plants went down rapidly. The sprayed half of a large Formosa persisted in good condition long after the other half was completely destroyed. Professor Riley is hopeful that the

demonstration was impressive enough so that the City will maintain a spraying program on the Azalea Trail, and that many citizens will do their own spraying in 1947. There was some slight injury to some azaleas in bright sun.

**NEW ORLEANS, LA.:** On February 25, when I inspected the garden of Mrs. J. Leo Burthe, she herself was doing the spraying with a small compressed air sprayer. There was no injury and the flowers were per-

**Spraying azaleas with Dithane at Cypress Gardens, near Winter Haven, Florida. Note the fine mist and the method of directing the spray into the blossoms.**



fect while those in nearby gardens were rapidly blighting.

The large garden of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Stern, with power spraying in process, was a vision of loveliness, and said to be the first full bloom in nearly ten years. When spraying was discontinued for the late varieties blight did get started.

A third garden inspected on February 25 showed some spray injury and poor control. Inquiry elicited the information that after the spray was mixed the gardener was called off for other tasks before completing the spraying. This only emphasizes the necessity of keeping the mixture agitated and using it as soon as possible.

Mr. Harry L. Daunoy wrote that his azaleas were in bloom through March 19, while those of his neighbors, unsprayed, were gone about the first.

Spraying kept the Parkways in bloom for Mardi Gras on March 5.

PASCAGOULA, MISS.: Mr. J. O.

Cockrell claimed 100 per cent control of azalea blight in the gardens around Longfellow House.

LAUREL, MISS.: Mrs. Thomas M. Gibbons, of the Laurel-Leader Call, wrote on April 3 that she and her 80-year-old mother did the work themselves with a 12-gallon Paragon sprayer. Their azaleas were still in bloom while those in other gardens had been gone for two weeks.

THEODORE, ALA.: Bellingrath Gardens had good control until a spell of rainy weather late in the season delayed applications. A slight amount of injury, appearing when increased pressure and a different method of mixing was tried, disappeared with a return to the old method and use of less material.

MOBILE, ALA.: Excellent control was reported for Mobile Parks but a dry season delayed blight so long that the results were not as spectacular as expected.

PENSACOLA, FLA.: The Pensacola News-Journal of March 17 carried pictures of azaleas sprayed by Mrs. C. A. Weis, the flowers having persisted long after their customary time.

CYPRESS GARDENS, FLA.: *The Southern*

*Florist and Nurseryman* for April 19 carried the statement by Richard Pope that spraying with Dithane at 4-day intervals practically stopped the spread of fungi carrying azalea blight.

CHARLESTON, S. C.: Mr. C. N. Hastie, Jr., reporting for the Charleston area, said that Dithane gave control of the disease, but that when sprays were applied at high temperatures there was rather severe wilting of the blossoms. The cause of this has not yet been determined. All azaleas have a tendency to wilt in hot weather, and especially so in periods of drouth. Just possibly there was too much zinc sulfate to react with the Dithane, since in this case the 36% zinc was used, as recommended for potatoes, rather than the 25% for the more dilute azalea formula. More spraying experiments, with blocks of treated and untreated bushes alternated all through the gardens, are needed to determine if spraying under the climatic conditions of South Carolina is really less safe than elsewhere.

All of the above reports are concerned with the use of Dithane\* and emphasize the fact that sprays must be properly mixed and applied in a fine mist, using as little liquid as will give complete coverage.

They also emphasize the idea that for complete protection, spraying should start with the early varieties and continue through the late bloomers. In prolonged rainy periods some provision should be made for spraying between showers, even though we should prefer to spray dry blossoms. Since spray injury is possible when plants are in bright sun and suffering from drouth, a long drink from a soil-

(Continued on page 24)

A Pride of Mobile azalea sprayed with Phygon in the McKeon Garden at Spring Hill, Alabama.



Close-up of blossoms from an unsprayed bush, next to bush sprayed with Phygon. Photographs taken same day.



\*Rohm and Haas Co. Philadelphia, Pa.

# January Suggestions

## Control Azalea Blight

In many parts of the South warm, humid conditions show up in late January and azalea petal blight strikes early. The disease can be checked if the spray program outlined by Dr. Cynthia Westcott (*HOME GARDENING*, July 1945) is followed to the letter. Have spray materials on hand ready for use at the first sign of trouble. Daily inspection of buds and flowers is necessary to detect the first symptoms of the disease. The trouble shows up in a discoloration and softening of flower petals. They become slimy and collapse but do not drop. At the onset of the disease, spray either with Dithane or Phygon at 2-3 day intervals until the end of the blooming season.

Repeated spraying is necessary to take care of new blossoms as they open. The spray forms a protective coating over the flower petals through which the disease spores cannot penetrate. Both fungicides mentioned above are on the market and complete directions for mixing and applying are in each package.

## Mulch Strawberry Plants

Scrape strawberry rows with a sharp hoe to cut down weeds and grass, but do not dig around the plants for fear of loosening their roots. After scraping place a heavy mulch of straw or pine needles along the row under the plants to keep fruit clean and off of the ground. An additional layer of straw spread between the rows is handy for covering the plants in case of a freeze.

## Fragrant Roses

In the Lower South rose planting can be continued with safety

through January; in the Upper South, through February. Following is a list of fragrant roses compiled from a survey by the American Rose Society to determine which of the popular rose varieties are the most fragrant. Of the 184 strongly scented varieties mentioned by rosarians, the 12 varieties listed below received the highest number of votes from all parts of the United States.

1. Crimson Glory (velvety crimson)
2. Etoile de Hollande (deep, bright red)
3. Hector Deane (orange and salmon-pink)
4. The Doctor (satiny pink)
5. Heart's Desire (crimson)
6. Girona (apricot)
7. Mirandy (garnet-red)
8. Mme. Jules Bouche (blush white)
9. Golden Dawn (yellow)
10. Neige Parfum (white)
11. Christopher Stone (scarlet)
12. Radiance (cameo pink)

## Pruning Roses

New rose bushes are usually correctly pruned ready for planting when they leave the grower. They should be checked over, however, in order to remove any roots or canes damaged in transit. Cut off broken pieces with a sharp knife or pruning shears.

Cut back established hybrid teas to 18 inches. First remove dead, diseased, or injured wood then open up the center of the plant to eliminate crossed canes. In pruning cut back to a healthy eye on the outside of a cane.

Do not prune climbing roses until after the blooming season in the spring.

## Plant Gladiolus

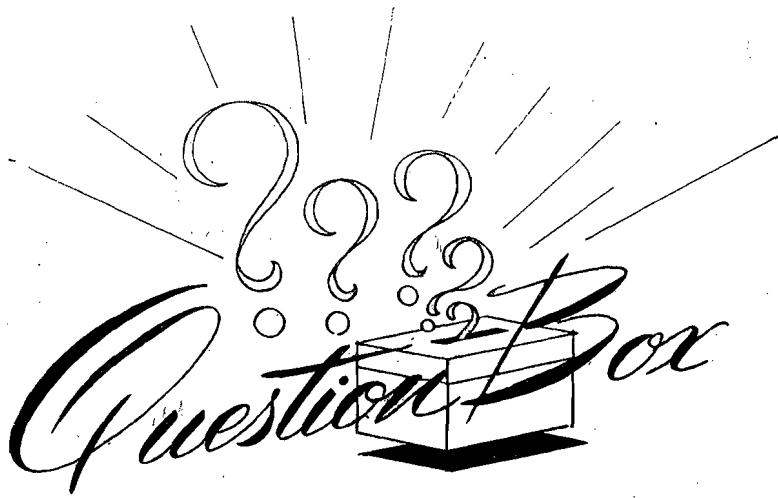
Reduce the danger of thrips damage by planting gladiolus corms early. Early plantings will give blossoms before hot weather when thrips become prevalent. As an additional precaution, place corms in a bag with naphthalene flakes (1 oz. to 100 corms) for several days before planting. Plant twice the depth of the corm in light, well drained soil, setting each on a cushion of sharp sand. After sprouting side dress with a balanced fertilizer.

## Germination of Seedlings

Some of the very tiny seed such as petunia and snapdragon give a higher percentage of germination if planted in flats where they can be protected. It is also advantageous to start seed of a number of tender plants indoors. The danger of die-back of seedlings is lessened if the growing medium is carefully selected.

Experimental work by Dr. Neil W. Stuart of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has revealed an excellent new medium for seed germination. It is called Vermiculite and is mined in Montana and Idaho. Vermiculite is really mica expanded under very high temperatures for use as insulation in construction work. Because of its moisture retentive and sterile qualities, it is gaining favor as a medium for rooting and germinating seedlings.

It is produced in four different grades. Use a layer of coarse vermiculite in the bottom of the seed flat, covered with a finer grade. In the middle place a small, sterile flower pot and water the vermiculite through the pot.



I have some *Camellia sasanqua* plants which I plan to use as grafting stock. These measure a bit more than a half inch at the base. Is it advisable to graft such plants this year or to wait for another year's growth?

J.P.D., Jr.—Augusta, Ga.

Ira S. Nelson says that rootstock measuring a half inch is entirely satisfactory. The rate of growth of the graft is directly proportional to the size of the rootstock and larger stock would, of course, give you a larger grafted plant in a shorter period of time. However, in view of the scarcity of rootstock, Mr. Nelson thinks it advisable to graft this year and gain a year's growth on the new plants.

I read an advertisement of some chemical that can be applied to the roots of unwanted plants to kill them. My place is overrun with pecan seedlings, trumpet vines, and wistaria. How can I get rid of them without damaging my young camellia bushes?

Mrs. E.L.R.—Concord, Ga.

No doubt you have reference to 2-4,D. This question was referred to Ira S. Nelson, our Horticultural Editor, who advises against using these strong weed killers near valuable plants. Even though you pour the solution around the roots instead of spraying it, rains might carry it to the roots of more desirable plants. He suggests that you pull down the vines and submerge the tops in a tub of the solution. In this way the chemical will be translocated directly to the roots of

the plants you wish to kill without coming in contact with the others.

To destroy pecan seedlings he recommends cutting them off 3 or 4 inches below ground level. If the cut is made deep enough, new growth will not occur.

Do you have any information about the culture of Dutch Iris? So often they completely disappear after a few years. Mine grow larger when planted near camellias and I wonder whether they like mulch or acid soil or both. Should these bulbs be dug and stored each year like gladioli?

Would it be practical to raise flowers to sell to florists without the expense of a hothouse?

Mrs. J.M.D.—Alexandria, La.

Dutch Iris will not play out if dug and stored every year after flowering. The small bulbs can be separated and planted to themselves for development into full size bulbs. In this way you will increase your stock rapidly. They prefer acid soil, sandy and well drained. However, they should not be mulched. This is probably the cause of their disappearing. Too much moisture caused by mulching will rot the bulbs.

A greenhouse will eliminate some of the hazard of commercial growing. This is the only way you can be sure of controlling the temperature. Since florists are usually more interested in buying flowers before the market is glutted with garden flowers, you will get higher

prices for flowers that are ready ahead of the outdoor season.

Can you tell me what attacks my pepperonium every year at this time? It feeds off the underside of the leaves, making a brown scaly appearance. There are some tiny, moving black objects. Also, what will put these pests out of business?

F.H.L.—New Orleans

The invaders sound like aphids. A contact spray of nicotine sulphate and soapy water will rid your plants of them. Direct the spray to the underside of the plants as it must actually touch the insects to kill them.

Please—what to do about a black scum covering gardenia leaves and small light brown scales along center vein underneath? Have been brushing off with soapy water but the bushes are getting too big for such baths.

Mrs. W.J.L.—Pearlington, Miss.

The "scum" is sooty mold; the "scales" are shells from which the white fly has emerged. White flies, prevalent in spring and fall, secrete a sticky substance known as honeydew in which the mold thrives. Clean up your plants with an oil emulsion spray applied after danger of frost is past. By spraying in March and April you will not only clean the foliage, but kill the flies swarming at that time. It might be necessary to repeat the spray application in September to take care of the fall flies.

Please give me some information on the Varnish Tree. Has it any commercial value?

E.J.W.—Niceville, Fla.

In the South two trees are commonly called Varnish trees. One, *Fimiana plataniifolia*, is a tall straight growing tree with smooth green bark. The other, *Koelreuteria paniculata*, is a more spreading tree characterized by very colorful bracts in the fall. As far as we know neither has any commercial value. Both are good ornamentals, their only undesirable feature being that they multiply rapidly from seed produced in great profusion.



A beautiful girl gathers camellia blossoms from one of the specimen bushes in Magnolia Gardens, near Charleston, South Carolina.

# CAMELLIAS

## The Aristocrat of So

The trek is on from garden to garden as the camellia season reaches its peak on the West Coast. Because a camellia is so easily transplanted successfully while in bloom, the camellia belt during the blooming season is a variety of varieties and new seedlings and new plant on sight is a great satisfaction toward its great popularity. Trial and error in camellia can be grown over a wide area, if care is taken in the selection.

Kodachromes from Magnolia Gardens

Lady Humes Blush was one of the first camellias to reach this country. Its fragile, blush pink blossoms open early in the season.





# AS IN COLOR

## of Southern Gardens

to garden and show to show as the  
peak in the Deep South and on the  
ellia is one of the few plants that can  
while in full bloom, collectors travel the  
coming season to locate choice rare  
and sports. Being able to move a  
faction and no doubt has contributed  
Trial plantings are proving that the  
a wider range than heretofore deemed  
e selection of hardy varieties.

from Magnolia Gardens



White Crane, when fully opened, gives the impression of a swirling ballet skirt. Pure white and exceedingly graceful, it is one of the most beautiful varieties. It is also known as Haku-rakuten.



Pixie is an informal, hardy camellia. It is a prolific, late season bloomer. Its bright rose petals are marked with white near the center of the flower. Sometimes listed as Radiation.

# February Planting Guide

Suggestions for planting are given a month ahead of the current issue in order to enable readers to obtain supplies.

## Flower Seed to Sow

- |   |                                 |                                |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ageratum                                | Dahlia                          | Mallow                         |
| Alyssum                                 | Daisy                           | *Nasturtium                    |
| Amaranthus                              | Dianthus                        | *Nemophila<br>(Baby-blue-eyes) |
| *Anchusa                                | *Didiscus (Blue lace<br>flower) | Nicotiana                      |
| Arctotis                                | *Dimorphotheca                  | *Nierembergia                  |
| Aster                                   | Feverfew                        | *Pentstemon                    |
| Calendula                               | Foxglove                        | Petunia                        |
| *Calliopsis                             | *Gaillardia                     | Phlox (annual)                 |
| *Candytuft                              | Godetia                         | Salpiglossis                   |
| Canterbury Bells                        | *Gyosophila<br>(Babysbreath)    | Salvia                         |
| Celosia                                 | *Johnny-Jump-Up                 | *Scabiosa                      |
| Clarkia                                 | Lantana                         | Sweet William                  |
| *Cleome                                 | Linaria                         | Verbena                        |
| Coreopsis                               | *Lobelia                        | Wall Flower                    |
| *Cornflower                             | Lupine                          |                                |
| *Cynoglossum (Chinese<br>forget-me-not) |                                 |                                |

\*Sow seed in open.

## Bulbs---Tubers---Rhizomes

- |                 |                               |                            |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Achimenes       | Cooperia                      | poker)                     |
| Agapanthus      | Dietes                        | Liriope                    |
| Allium          | Eucomis (Pineapple<br>Lily)   | Marica (Walking Iris)      |
| Alpina (Ginger) | Gladiolus                     | Milla                      |
| Amarcrinus      | Gloriosa                      | Oxalis                     |
| Amaryllis       | Hemerocallis                  | Scilla                     |
| Billbergia      | Hedychium (Butterfly<br>lily) | Sprekelia                  |
| Blackberry Lily | Hosta (Plantain lily)         | Tigridia                   |
| Calla           | Hymenocallis                  | Tritonia (montbretia)      |
| Chlidanthus     | Kniphofia (Red hot<br>poker)  | Tulbaghia (Society Garlic) |
| Crinum          |                               | Zephyranthes               |
|                 |                               | Zingiber (Hidden lily)     |

## Plants to Set Out

- |             |          |                  |
|-------------|----------|------------------|
| Alyssum     | Dianthus | Queen Ann's Lace |
| Anchusa     | Gerbera  | Snapdragon       |
| Calendula   | Larkspur | Stock            |
| Candytuft   | Lupine   | Sweet William    |
| Cornflower  | Mallow   | Viola            |
| Cynoglossum | Petunia  | Violet           |
| Daisy       | Phlox    | Wall Flower      |

## Vegetables

- |                  |               |               |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Asparagus Crowns | *Eggplant     | Potato, Irish |
| *Broccoli        | Endive        | Radish        |
| Brussels sprouts | Kale          | Salsify       |
| Cabbage plants   | Kohlrabi      | Shallots      |
| Carrots          | Lettuce       | Spinach       |
| Cauliflower      | Mustard       | Tendergreen   |
| Chard, Swiss     | Onion plants  | *Tomato       |
| Chinese cabbage  | Parsley       | Turnip        |
| Collards         | Peas, English |               |
| Cress            | *Pepper       |               |

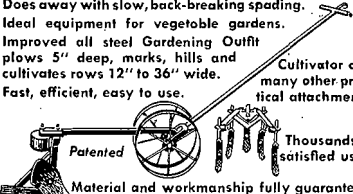
\*Sow seed in hotbeds.

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# Plant Pests and Problems

C. E. Smith, *Entomologist*

and

A. G. Plakidas, *Plant Pathologist*

*Louisiana State University*

## New Fungicides

In recent years such a long array of new fungicides and insecticides has been placed on the market and so many claims have been made by their manufacturers that the grower finds himself at a loss to decide which to use and for what purpose. The list is very long and it is impossible to discuss them all. Only a few of the new fungicides which have proved their worth either in doing a better job against diseases for which old fungicides were used, or in controlling diseases against which the old fungicides were not effective are discussed here. Only the fungicides will be discussed in this issue; insecticides will be discussed in a later article.

1. **DITHANE** (disodium ethylene bisdithiocarbamate). This chemical has proved its worth against many diseases, such as the blights of tomato, potato and celery, and also in preventing storage rots of sweet potatoes. Dithane and Phygon are the only two fungicides yet found which give effective control against Azalea flower blight without causing injury to the flowers.

2. **FERMATE** (ferric dimethyl dithiocarbamate) is one of the best and most versatile of the organic fungicides. It has given outstanding control of a variety of diseases ranging from those of fruit trees (apple, pear, peach, cherry) to those of vegetables and ornamentals. In Louisiana it proved to be the best material against the downy mildew and anthracnose of cucumbers. It has been reported very effective against Botrytis blight of tulips. It proved to be the best material for the control of downy mildew of tobacco. It controls black spot on roses.

3. **PURATIZED N5E** (phenyl mercuric triethanol ammonium lactate). This chemical has proved most effective against various diseases. It is of particular interest for Louisiana because it is the only fungicide which was

(Continued on page 28)



## Pirates Cruze Gardens

Mount Pleasant, S. C.  
Seven Miles from Charleston

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# Carefree Camellias

Caroline Dormon

Saline, Louisiana

## The Garden That Experts Acclaim!

Each year thousands of garden lovers visit the internationally famed Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, S. C., long acclaimed by experts as the most beautiful garden in the world.

From December through February the display of thousands of beautiful and rare Camellias is the attraction. Some of the plants, more than 100 years old, are mammoth in size. There are truly hundreds of varieties.

In March and April the spectacular show of thousands of colorful azaleas blooming in profusion is world famed.

## MAGNOLIA GARDENS

On S. C. 61 - Ashley River Road  
Near Charleston, S. C.

The big showy *Camellia japonica*, grown in southern gardens for a hundred years, is considered queen of winter blooming shrubs—and justly so. But this famous flower does require considerable attention if it is to attain its real perfection. This has often deterred busy home gardeners from trying to grow it. Also, in the northern part of its range, the finest display of blossoms is many times ruined by freezes. But—good news—there is a camellia which can be enjoyed, and almost forgotten when the gardener is busy elsewhere.

*Camellia sasanqua* (or *Thea sasanqua*) was probably introduced about the same time as its showier sister, *C. japonica*, but because of its modest appearance, it has never received anything like as much at-

attention. However, there are a few persons (like the writer) who fall in love with it on sight, for its exquisite grace and daintiness, and because of its delicate perfume. In most varieties, the leaves are small, pointed, shining, and arranged in lovely sprays. With a few exceptions, it is of rapid growth and soon forms an attractive, shapely, evergreen shrub, deserving a place in the garden, even if it never had a blossom.

In September, long before most of the big camellias have even thought of opening their buds, these plants burst into bloom, literally starred with delicate white, pink or rose flowers. They do not all open at one time, so there is a succession of bloom until the end of November, and a few carry on into December. I often wonder why they are not planted for informal hedges—not to be clipped at all, but used to form dividing lines. They are also excellent as specimen plants, where a spot of vivid green is needed in the garden.

There are a number of varieties now on the market, more being introduced each year. To me, the loveliest of all are the big single whites and delicate pinks, like the most exquisite wild roses. Some are white, with just a delicate edging of pink. There is a "crimson" one advertised, but the nearest red that I have obtained so far is really a deep rose. There is an old favorite, Mine-no-yuki (Snow-on-the-Mountain), with pure white, double flowers, which is very lovely. I shall never forget one November night, when a guest at a home in New Orleans, I walked to an open French window, and just outside were two of these lovely things snowy with bloom. They were growing in tubs, on an open upstairs porch. In the light from the

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windows, they were ethereal, fascinating.

My experience with *Camellia sasanqua* has been happy. Mine get almost no attention, yet are absolutely free of scale or any other pest. My soil is poor, so once a year I work in well rotted barnyard manure around them, then mulch with leaves from under hardwood trees—preferably oaks. They will grow in almost any soil, if it is well drained, and not alkaline. While young, they like to be shaded from full summer sun.

*Camellia sasanqua* is a winning sort of plant, the kind of thing one truly loves. Now I see a white one advertised as "trailing"—if it really trails, what a plant for the rock garden!

An attractive small evergreen seldom seen in gardens is *Thea sinensis*, which produces the tea of commerce. Of course all camellia fanciers know that the showy camellias belong to the Tea Family, but they may not be aware that the shrub which gave the family its name deserves attention for its charm. It is not a show off, but when well grown, the slender, pointed leaves, and single cream-white flowers make an attractive combination. The blossoms are miniature single camellias, less than an inch in diameter. My first plants were given me by the late Sam Stokes, a pioneer nurseryman who introduced many new shrubs in Central and North Louisiana. My impression is that he grew them from seeds. They take several years to get established, but become more attractive as time passes. I like them for their historical interest, but they also add unique charm to any collection of camellias.

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# Vegetable Notes for January

K. H. Buckley

*Assistant Extension Horticulturist  
Mississippi State College*

We are all called on again to keep the garden busy, whether it be a "pocket size" garden or an acre in size. The weekly family budget does not show the same figures it did a year ago, but you can help in keeping it from going higher or even reduce it by growing a good home garden this year. Can you think of any greater return from a small investment than a 12-month garden, not just a seasonal tomato or bean patch? The home garden will be the family food budget's best friend in 1947.

## Planning the Garden

January offers many garden activities from planning the garden to planting some of the hardy and semi-hardy crops. If the garden plan has not been made, then that is Job No. 1. Check yourself on the following points: (1) Was my garden large enough in 1946? (2) Did I have enough different kinds of vegetables? (3) Were my plantings staggered so as to have a continuous flow of vegetables or did all my beans, peas or greens mature at the same time? (4) Did I have too much or too little of any one vegetable for home needs—fresh, canning and stored? (5) Is the garden fence ready to keep out rabbits and the neighbor's chickens? (6) Do I have adequate fertilizer and insecticides for the garden this year? (7) Are the tools ready for action? (8) Have I selected the varieties of vegetables that are adapted for my area? (9) Is my garden cleaned off and ready for manure and plowing? (10) Is my garden well drained? These are just reminders and a few jobs for January if you have been prevented from working in the garden during December.

A few points to remember in making a garden plan is to locate early vegetables to themselves, not a row of radishes and skip a row for tomatoes, but all together. These will be the first crops for harvest and also the first ones to complete their usefulness, then that area may be planted to mid-season crops or a late planting of some of the same crops. Likewise, the long season vegetables or summer vegetables may be grouped together. Some of them will occupy the plot or rows until frost next fall. However, it should not be forgotten that tall plants, like pole beans or okra, should not be planted next to a low growing crop. The tall plants may shade the small ones too much. The perennials are planted on one side of the garden. Some of them will be there for several years, as in the case of asparagus.

## Rotation

Rotation of the planting plan from year to year is beneficial, even from crop to crop during the same year. Shallow rooted crops may be followed by deep rooted crops. If shallow rooted vegetables are followed by shallow rooted vegetables, the nutrients in that area of the soil may become weak or even largely depleted. Cabbage should not be planted on the same row the following year or even under 3 to 4 years, due to certain soil borne diseases to which the cabbage is susceptible and the disease may remain in the soil for 2 to 3 years. Some crops also have a depressing effect on those which follow by taking more nutrients from the soil than others, also the residue of some crops may affect those which follow. There are a number of reasons for rotation. So play safe and move the

rows around as much as possible.

## Fertilizer

Gardening should not be attempted without some form of fertilizer—barnyard manure, chemical or cover crops or a combination of these. Most vegetables are heavy feeders and for best production, "fertilize." If you have a garden one-tenth of an acre in size, spread 2 to 3 wagon loads of manure over the plot before plowing, also secure 100 to 200 pounds of a good balanced commercial fertilizer for later use, before and after planting. If your plot is smaller, then cut down these proportions to fit your plot.

## The Hotbed

The hotbed is one of the most useful items to the gardener, especially where one grows his own plants such as tomato, pepper and eggplant. The plant growing structure is simple to build, inexpensive and may be used year after year. If you live in the middle or upper South the bed is usually planted from early February to about March 1 for early plants of tomato, pepper and eggplant. It usually takes about two months to grow these plants from seed until they are ready to set in the field; one month in the hotbed and one month in the coldframe. If you plan to set plants in the field around April 10, then the hotbed is planted about February 10.

The hotbed is located in one corner of the garden or in almost any other place that is convenient. The frame should face a southerly direction so as to receive the benefit of as much winter and early spring sun as possible.

The growing of vegetable plants is not the only use for a hotbed, as a number of different kinds of

tender flower plants may be started in it for transplanting to the garden later in the season.

Excavate under the frame deep enough to permit refilling with 10 to 20 inches of green manure covered with a 4 inch layer of good loam suitable for growing seed. Cover the hotbed with sloping window sash, hinged so that it may be raised on mild days. For added protection, bank the earth around the walls of the frame that are above ground level.

### Planting Chart

This planting chart does not cover all vegetables, but many of the most common ones. This will probably answer some of your questions on, "How Much, How Far Apart, How Deep to Plant and the Approximate Time before maturity of your favorite crop", however, the maturity date will vary from state to state and from season to season.

January plantings will consist of several of the semi- and hardy vegetables: carrots, lettuce, onions, cabbage, Irish potatoes, mustard, spinach, turnips, asparagus crowns, peas and radishes. In the lower South tomato, pepper and eggplant seed may be planted in the hotbed.

### Planting Chart for 1947

Vegetable	Seed per 100' of row	Distance betw. Plants in row	Depth to plant seed	*Days to Maturity
Bush snap beans	1 lb.	2 in.	2 in.	50-60
Pole snap beans	½ lb.	18 in.	2 in.	65-70
Bush lima beans	1 lb.	2 in.	2 in.	65
Pole lima beans	½ lb.	4-6 in.	2 in.	75-80
Beets	2 oz.	3 in.	1 in.	60-65
Cabbage	75 plants	18 in.	—	70-80
Carrots	¼ oz.	3 in.	½ in.	75
Collards	½ oz.	18 in.	½ in.	70
Corn	¼ lb.	12-15 in.	2 in.	65-70
Cucumbers	1 oz.	4 ft.	1½ in.	60
Lettuce, leaf	½ oz.	4 in.	½ in.	45
Lettuce, head	½ oz.	12 in.	½ in.	60
Mustard	½ oz.	1 in.	½ in.	35
Okra	1 oz.	2 ft.	1 in.	60
Onions	400 plants	3 in.	—	90
Peas, garden	1 to 2 lbs.	1 in.	2 in.	60
Pepper	1 pkt.	1 ft.	Plants	75
Radish	1 oz.	2 in.	½ in.	25
Spinach	1 oz.	1 in.	1 in.	45
Squash	½ oz.	3 ft.	2 in.	50
Tomatoes	50 plants	2 ft.	—	75
Turnip	½ oz.	1 in.	½ in.	40

\*Maturity dates will vary from season to season and in different areas.

### More Reminders for 1947

1. Prepare soil thoroughly before planting.
2. Buy good seed.
3. Use adequate fertilizer before and after planting.
4. Use double-row planting for several of early small growing vegetables.
5. Keep bug dust handy.
6. Keep down weeds and grass throughout year.
7. Make from one to three plantings of each crop.
8. Harvest properly.
9. Use mulches when dry weather comes.
10. Use fertilizer in solutions when setting plants. (Dissolve 1 lb. of 5-10-5 fertilizer in 5 gallons of water and place 1 teacupful around each plant at time of setting.)



## Beginners' Corner

When planting a vine give it a support on which to run as soon as it sprouts. This is particularly important in the case of peas, climbing fern, cypress vine, and other tender climbers. Once they become matted on the ground it is practically impossible to untangle them.

Cut off a few branches of spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, bridal wreath, peach, almond, etc., for forcing indoors. Place in water in a cool, light room until the buds begin to open and then arrange them where they can be seen and enjoyed.

Pick your pansies every day to prolong the blooming season. If you prefer to leave them in the garden for color, pick off the faded blooms daily before they go to seed.

Houseplants should not be watered with very cold water. Let tap water stand until it reaches room temperature before using it.

Do not apply an acidifying agent to soil because you *think* it is alkaline. There are inexpensive soil test kits on the market that should be part of every gardener's equipment. Test your soil at intervals and bear in mind there is such a thing as *too much* acidity in soil.

# The Shape of Things to Come

William Lanier Hunt

Chapel Hill, N. C.

As the wild camellias from China gradually come into gardens in England and America, they are destined to give us new types not now in existence. Already one can see the "shape of things to come" in some of the varieties which have sprung from *Camellia reticulata* and *C. saluenensis* in England.

Just a few years ago, the Royal Horticulture Society awarded its F.C.C. to the variety J. C. Williams. This has been called the most outstanding of all camellias in England because of its free-flowering habit, its resistance to temperatures down to zero, its rapid rate of growth and the fact that it is able to stand more sunlight in England than any other variety. The flowers are semi-double with a large cluster of stamens showing in the center. The color is light, bright pink, and the blossoms have something of the appeal and simplicity of our dogwood blossoms.

It is well known that many of the "Japonica" varieties are perfectly hardy here in the United States, as far as the plants themselves are concerned, even up in the colder parts of the Upper South. The writer grew up with bushes of the old double red in Greensboro, North Carolina. However, the buds freeze, when not protected from the cold, so that one must either protect the whole plant or be satisfied with flowers in mild winters only. The new variety, J. C. Williams, produces its buds so profusely that even if a great many of them are killed, there is always a crop ready to take their place. It is this characteristic which makes it a variety of great value in the colder sections of England as it ought to be in the United States.

The late Mr. J. C. Williams, for whom the variety was named produced it at his garden at Caerhays Castle in Cornwall. One parent was *C. saluenensis*, and the other is

supposed to have been *C. japonica*. Hybrids are interesting and strange things, often with better qualities than either of their parents. In point of hardiness, this cross is an improvement on *C. saluenensis* which is considered tender even in the London area, a point we Americans might remember when we begin to grow the species.

In Dr. Hume's \**Camellias in America*, that treasure house of information for which we had been waiting so eagerly, he gives us a photograph of *C. saluenensis* growing at Mrs. Sheffield Phelps' in Aiken, South Carolina. When this camellia was first distributed to gardens in England, it appeared under the name, *C. speciosa*, a misnomer which has now been corrected. A number of different forms have arisen from Forrest's 1917 collections. One that interested this writer because of its extra long, showy leaves is growing in the greenhouse at the Royal Horticulture Society's gardens at Wisley under the label, *C. saluenensis macrophylla*. It had the graceful weeping habit which can be seen in Mrs. Phelps' specimen, but it was, of course, not in bloom when I saw it in September, 1945. Dr. Maurice Amsler, writing in the English magazine, GARDENING ILLUSTRATED, for December 1946 says that he saw it in bloom and describes the flowers as two and a half inches across—large for the type—and shell pink, as opposed to the deeper pink of the type.

In the same greenhouse at Wisley, I saw a plant labelled *C. sasanqua* var. *fragrans*. Dr. Amsler notes that the blossoms were especially fragrant when it bloomed in November. In this country, we have never appreciated the real value of this camellia because its flowers are not as big as dinner plates. It is certainly to be hoped that, in the future, camellia breeders will take

it more seriously. Since the *Sasanqua* season begins early in the fall, before the frosts in the Upper South, it is the species which can both extend the season in the Lower South and give to the Upper South a camellia season before cold weather threatens that region.

On the wall at the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, I found still another species *Camellia* which interested me. It had all the grace and beauty of cherry laurel in twig and leaf and showed its close relationship to the Tea Plant although the foliage was more loosely set. This species, *C. cuspidata* blooms at the end of the season in the spring and can be counted upon to extend the season in that direction. It is considerably more showy than the Tea Plant in flower as will be seen by the illustration on page 70 of Dr. Hume's book.

Numerous other camellia species are in existence in English gardens, and hybrids from them are being continually introduced. The single form of *C. reticulata* which Forrest collected from very high mountains may well produce in its progeny varieties that are hardy to cold. Hybrids are being created between it and other species and introduced through the British nurseries. At least one good variety has been the product of *C. reticulata* (though I do not know which type) and *C. saluenensis*. It was named *Salutation* and the R.H.S. gave it its Award of Merit.

In China, more types and species are being discovered all the time. Botanical expeditions of 1933 uncovered interesting plants in Yunnan province. At the capital of the province, Yunnanfu, a splendid new camellia, *C. heterophylla*, was discovered. It was a popular garden flower of the neighborhood, probably long in cultivation now. The flowers are not unlike those of *C. reticulata*, and the two types of leaves on the same twigs, heart-shaped and plain, suggest to this writer that the plant is probably a hybrid instead of a species.

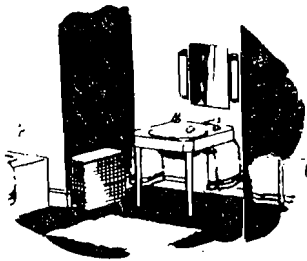
\*J. Horace McFarland Co., Harrisburg, Pa. 1946.



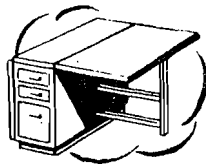
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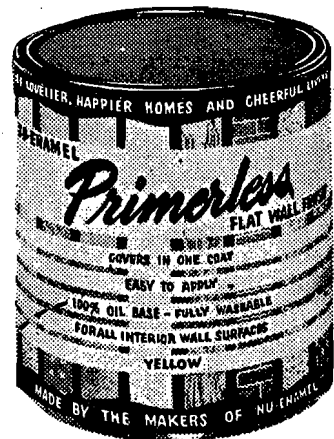
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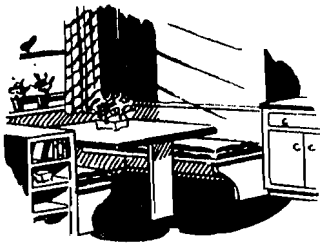


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MY GARDEN IN FLORIDA, Vol. 2. By Dr. Henry Nehrling, edited by A. H. Andrews. 321 pages, indexed. Guiding Star Publishing House. Estero, Florida. 1946. \$3.75.

This volume completes the horticultural writings of the late Henry Nehrling whose articles were originally published in *The American Eagle* (a Florida weekly) and later assembled into book form by A. H. Andrews, editor of *The Eagle*.

More than half of the book is devoted to notes on Palms in Florida, both native and exotic. There is an extensive section on Bamboos in which different species are described and cultural notes are given. A number of epiphytes are described and discussed, including Orchids, *Vriesia*, *Aechmea*, *Billbergia* and others.

A complete index adds to the value of the book as a reference volume.

CAMELLIAS IN AMERICA, by H. Harold Hume. 446 pages, illustrated and indexed. J. Horace McFarland Co., Harrisburg, Pa. 1946. \$25.50.

Camellia admirers, enthusiasts and growers have long awaited a monograph covering the subject. Nothing authoritative and inclusive has appeared in print since the classical works of Berlése and Verschaffelt more than eighty years ago. H. Harold Hume in "Camellias in America" goes a long way in supplying the desideratum. The historical account of the flower's maiden journey by sailing craft across the seas to Europe, later to arrive by way of northern glass houses to the gardens of the antebellum South is both interesting and informative and is revealing of labored research. The explanation of the flower's botanical status

made plain and understandable is a testimonial to the author's many years in teaching the subject. You do not have to be a horticulturist to grasp what he is talking about.

The cultural notes will be welcomed by all who grow and/or propagate the plant. Directions are given for planting and growing to the best advantage. There is a section on soil requirements and how to meet them; one on diseases and pests (some bugs have good taste and love them as you and I), how to recognize the unwelcome guests and what to do to make their visit uncomfortable and short; how to increase your plants in number by various methods, and how to ship the flowers to those who are truly unfortunate in not living where the camellia grows. These and many things you will want to know.

Nearly a hundred pages are devoted to the names and varieties—a valuable contribution to the present unending discussion. This is the only section of the book likely to attract criticism, for it is indeed a Herculean task to bring system and clarity out of the present chaos of nomenclature. Dr. Hume might gracefully publish an addenda to this part of the book, shall we say ten years from now? Then he and others will have work left to do.

The lovely camellia is unpredictable (one of its many charms) and brings forth offspring of new and novel features unlike the parent, and a new name is born. Berlése commented more than a hundred years ago on the confusion of names and his words are applicable today. Hume approaches the task with due humility, usually a trait of the great. His is only a beginning and, to paraphrase the words of the Big Man with the cigar, if not the beginning of the end, it is at least a worthy end of the beginning in a needed job.

The closing pages list an annotated bibliography for the more inquisitive student.

The publisher has been equal to the occasion. The volume is large,

measuring eight by eleven inches, with 446 pages of fine heavy grade paper; the 49 full page color plates are excellent, and the 181 black and white illustrations, both photographs and drawings, point a moral or adorn a tale. The price unfortunately is a little stiff until we consider the depreciated coin. But those to whom the book is dedicated, "To all those who propagate, who grow, who study, who advance the knowledge of camellias," will willingly put on a patch, or slip in a gusset, and joyfully wear last year's suit in order to own the book, for Hume will be cited for a long time to come when two or more camellia fanciers get together.

King Rand, M.D.  
Alexandria, La.

## Azalea Blight

(Continued from page 11)

soaker hose is a wise preface to treatment.

Phygon<sup>†</sup> was not in sufficient supply for wide scale amateur use last season. In the few cases where it was tested the report was that it was well worth further trial. It will be available, in small containers, at many retail stores in 1947. Wettable Phygon is a yellow powder, very easy to mix and use. Previously (*HOME GARDENING*, July 1945 and January 1946), I said that about a teaspoonful was sufficient to equal the recommended dosage of 1 pound per 100 gallons of water. After measuring many, many types of teaspoons, packed, and filled lightly, levelled off and slightly rounded, I now realize that I was not very accurate in that statement. Two level measuring-spoon teaspoons of the powder is a more nearly correct dosage but, for absolute accuracy, weigh out 4.5 grams, should you have access to such scales.

<sup>†</sup>U. S. Rubber Co., Naugatuck Chemical Division.

## 1947 All-America Selections

The four most outstanding flowers to be introduced in 1947 have been announced by the All-America Selections Committee. Awards are based on the results of pre-introduction trial plantings in test gardens located in different parts of the United States.

The highest award in the 1947 All-Americas goes to the all-double petunia, Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The erect and bushy plant grows to 16 inches in height and spreads to 30 inches, maintaining a uniform habit of growth. The distinctive new salmon-pink color runs true through the flowers from these seeds. The doubleness of the 2¾-inch blooms is 100%. Coming well up around the flower the foliage provides an effective background for the flowers. The plants are desirable for bedding, for borders and for cutting. The distinct color is lovely and effective in any light.

"Rose Marie," the other all-double petunia, won the bronze medal award. The fairly erect plants grow somewhat taller than the silver medal winner, reaching an average height of 18 inches, the bushy growth spreading to about 30 inches. The flowers, opening to 3 inches or more across, are rose-pink, self-colored. They are borne above the foliage. The stems are well clothed with leaves. These plants, with their delightful color and good habits, are excellent for bedding, for borders and for cutting, working beautifully in arrangements.

To the antirrhinum "Velvet Giant," with its vigorous growth and many spikes of unusual size, also went a bronze medal. The plant grows 2½ feet, sending up from near the base six to twelve spikes that boldly bear the large flowers and flower heads. A slight undertone of orange-bronze shows through the rich crimson, lighting up the color and giving it added life; the richness of the color is increased by the velvety texture of the flowers.

The new French marigold, "Naughty Marietta," received honorable mention. The 12 to 15-inch mound-shaped plants have an average spread of 16 inches. They bear flowers 2 to 2½ inches across, in color golden yellow and strikingly marked with mahogany-red at the petal base. Flowers completely cover the plants at full bloom, giving an extremely showy effect for beds and borders. They make attractive cutting material for low and medium-height arrangements and give rich-colored personality to them.

This year as last, double petunias won the highest awards, two this year and one last, showing the response of plant breeders to the gardeners' call for these lovely all-season bloomers. Until six years ago America obtained her all-double petunia seeds from Japan. When war cut off our source of these favorites, American breeders set about learning how to produce these all-double flowers from seeds. They learned, and "America," the 1943 All-America Selection was the result. Now we are no longer dependent on Japan for our supply.

# RARE CAMELLIAS



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# In A... Southern Kitchen

## SURPRISE KITCHEN SOIRÉE

**SURPRISE!** Surprise! YOU'RE going to entertain at an informal kitchen soirée . . . and you don't know a single thing about it.

"Gosh, are we starved!" Thump-bang go skates, bikes are parked, and in roars your "teen-age" daughter and her crowd with appetites sharpened by cold January weather, yammering for some of those "eats" that you, in a moment of weakness, promised them after the holidays. Well, Mom, don't look so unhappy. While the youngsters soak in the welcome warmth of your open fireplace, start things humming in the kitchen because that's where the party's going to be. But don't keep the kids waiting too long, or they'll start in on your lovely candles.

What you want is something 'hot, zippy and speedy, some-

thing substantial. Swing your surprise meal around a whopping kettle of steaming spaghetti. Remember the can-opener and the emergency shelf are your pals, so ring in plenty of ready-to-go foods. As the young guests thaw out, draft them for kitchen table setting, pot-watching, food lugging or whatever's in order. And don't be surprised if every now and then a young couple stops eating and steps off to dance, because they've moved the portable radio to the kitchen for some quick jitterbugging.

Kitchens are made for party-giving, and a kitchen soirée, one of these spur-of-the-moment parties with its lively informal fun is rich with the spirit of warm Southern hospitality. So kids, park your skates and your bikes! It's time to "put the feed bag on!" And just to tickle your own inspiration here is a soirée pattern menu for famished teen-agers.

### Informal Kitchen "Eats"

TEEN-AGE COCKTAILS      PIGGY'S TEARS      GRAB BAG      RELISH 'EM  
 DEVILED "HOT DOG"      HAND-ME-QUICKS      OLIVES, GHERKINS      BAKERY BREAD STICKS  
 SPAGHETTI, OUR GANG STYLE      "POT LUCK" SAUCE      DATE JACKPOTS      BOTTLED BEVERAGES

ADDED ATTRACTION: Sweet Milk Dusted with Powdered Nutmeg

Rosy Apples

Popcorn

Cluster Raisins

#### Teen-Age Cocktails

Simply use a mixture of chilled orange, grape and pineapple juices. Shake up in cocktail shaker until frothy. Serve very cold in cocktail glasses. *Teen-Agers will love this starter-off.*

#### Piggy's Tears

Fry slices of canned ready-to-serve ham. Cube and spear on toothpicks, interspersed with tiny pearl onions. *Plenty good, so make up lots of them.*

#### Grab Bag

On a kitchen tray arrange plates of white and whole wheat bread, margarine, sardines, lettuce, snappy cheese, sliced tomatoes, lemon halves and mustard. *Let the youngsters make up their own combinations from your "grab bag."*

#### Relish 'Em

Dab cheese crackers with carrot marmalade and apple butter. *Everybody will relish 'em.*

#### Deviled "Hot Dog" Hand-Me-Quicks

1 dozen "hot dogs"  
 3 teaspoons prepared mustard  
 1 cup pickle or corn relish  
 1 cup salad dressing  
 "hot dog" buns

Boil the "hot dogs," remove the skin and put through the food chopper using the medium blade. Add mustard, relish and salad dressing and mix until well blended. Spread on buns. *"Hand-Me-Quick? I'm hungry!"*

#### Spaghetti, Our Gang Style

1½ pounds flat spaghetti (called Linguina)  
 salt  
 tumeric powder  
 ¼ cup sherry  
 ⅛ cup olive oil

Use the flat spaghetti if possible because it's easier than ordinary spaghetti to handle in large quantities. Fill a large kettle with boiling water and add salt and a little tumeric powder—the powder will give the spaghetti a creamy color. Cook until tender and drain well. Heat a large earthenware bowl with boiling water and then drain. Put sherry and olive oil in heated bowl and mix well with a fork. Then add spaghetti and toss until each strand is covered with the marinating mixture. Add the "Pot Luck" Sauce and kitchen-serve in large bowls with cheese topping.

# The Indoor Fern

Because of the beauty of its leaves, the endless variety of forms and the wide range of greens, gardeners everywhere regard the fern very highly as an indoor plant.

Add to this the fact that the fern is comparatively easy to grow, gives perfect foliage in a short time and is long-lived and remarkably free from pests, and you have the reason for its being a favorite among house and garden plants.

Since we're right in the middle of the winter season, I am going to discuss only the house fern, the most reliable of which are the more tender varieties from southern latitudes. The reason for this is simply that many of these ferns are able to thrive if the atmosphere is kept moist and the temperature above 50 degrees and below 80 degrees Fahrenheit. On the other hand, the present-day home is too dry and warm for complete success with native ferns. And, too, most of the native ferns are deciduous and are dormant through the winter.

The best ferns for indoors are:

**BIRDS NEST FERN**—An excellent house fern. Has broad, bright-green fronds with dark midribs, growing in a crown.

**BOSTON FERN AND ITS VARIETIES**—This fern can stand a great deal of neglect. For best results, however, it is advisable to provide plenty of light, a porous soil, a north exposure—as with all ferns—and ample water at the roots. It is also wise to repot in spring, and allow it to rest in the shade during summer.

**CRETAN BRAKE**—A fern highly valued for its beauty.

**HARES FOOT FERN**—Has broad fronds about a foot long. Prefers a wide pot.

**MAIDENHAIR FERN**—Among the most popular and lovely of the ferns.

**STAG HORN FERN**—A large and tropical-appearing fern. Prefers a basket or woody wall pocket and requires careful watering and plenty of indirect light.

**TENDER HOLLY FERN**—An excellent indoor fern. Water spar-

ingly in winter and allow it to rest occasionally in a cool, dark place.

In potting the indoor fern, it is very important that the pots be spotlessly clean. A thorough washing with hot water and soap is good. When the pots are dry, place a concave piece of broken pot over the drainage opening and fill with about ½ inch of gravel. Follow this with a soil composed of good garden earth, peat moss and sand. Allow enough room at the top of the pot so that when the fern is set in place there will still be ¾ inch of unused space in the pot. Select a pot just large enough to hold the plant and no larger.

## Watering

Water thoroughly every few days, standing the pot in a bowl of water until saturated. Do not water until soil needs it. During these winter months it is all right to wash the leaves once a month but do not let them dry in the sun.

## Feeding

A method of feeding that enables you to give ferns complete plant food and still have the utmost in convenience is the use of tablets. Plants should be fed at the rate of 2 tablets for a 6-inch pot. For plants in 10-inch pots, use 4 tablets. Vary the number of tablets proportionately for plants in larger or smaller pots. Always place the tablets along the edge of the pot about an inch away from the rim. Space them about 6 inches apart. Make holes about 1 inch deep and drop the tablets in these holes, then cover with soil and water thoroughly.

*The Master Gardener*

## "Pot-Luck" Sauce

- 2½ pounds chopped onions
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 cans of tomato juice
- 2 cups tomato pulp
- 1½ crushed chili peppers
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Combine ingredients for sauce and simmer as long as possible or until thick. Remove garlic and chili peppers. Serve on spaghetti. *Note: The teen-agers come in handy—they chop the onions and help make the sauce.*

*These Date Jackpots are "leftovers" from the holidays and you'll find them in a large covered tin can hidden on the pantry shelf for just such an occasion.*

## Date Jackpots

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 tablespoons margarine, melted



- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- ⅓ cup milk
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 3 dozen stuffed dates

Mix and sift dry ingredients; add all other ingredients, except dates, in the order listed; blend well. Roll very thin on a floured board, cut into oblongs large enough to wrap around a stuffed date; prick to allow steam to escape. Brush with melted margarine, place on greased cooky sheet, and bake in a moderate oven until lightly browned. Makes 3 dozen "jackpots."

## Au Revoir 'til February

*The BIG little MONTH... when we're "going romantic" at a Dan Cupid Party. Until then, get "hep" to the Kitchen Soirée Idea. It's F-U-N!*

*Erna Harris*

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(Continued from page 17)

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