Carolina Camellias

Mathotiana Supreme — "Gibb Treated"

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Carolina Camellias

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About the Cover

This month's cover picture features a MATHOTIANA SUPREME which bloomed in January after the bud was treated with Gibberellic Acid in late November as described in the feature article of this issue by Dr. Herbert Racoff. Editor's Note: That is a regulation yard stick in the background showing a full eight-inch bloom.

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Carolina Brown
Carrousel
Carter's Sunbust
Centennial
China Doll
Claire Renee
Circus Girl
Coronation
Crimson Glory
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Dear Jenny
Destiny
Dr. Gehry
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Dragon Lady
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Hi Jinx
Herzillio Fruito
High Widn' Handsome
Holly Leaf
Holly Mac
Ida Weisner
Indian Chief Var.
Irene Rester
Irma Judice
James Horne
James S. Stewart
Jaylyle
Jennie Mills
Jessie Bryson
Judge Marvin Mann
Judge Talbert
Julia France
Kate Mallory
Keepsake
Lady Macon
Lady in Red
Laurie Bray
Letches Pink
Linda Margaret
Mdm. Betzel
Man Size
Marie Bracey
Marion Harrison
Mark Culver
Maroon & Gold
Maryland Var.
Mary Christian
Mary Libby
Maverick
Max Swisher
Maybell Paulin
Menia Wheat
Meredith Lake
Miss Frankie
Miss Mary
Moon Child
Mrs. Fair Dodd
Mrs. Marshall Fields
Mr. Wonderful
Nellie McGrath
Nine Westinghouser
Nuccio Special
Pierate's Pride
Private Secretary
Red Elephant
Rebel Yell
Satins Satan
Serenade
Silver Anniversary
Silver Betty Sheffield
Snowgoose
Swirling Clould
Tomorrow's Dawn
Ville De Nantes
Vulcan Var.
Waltz Time
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White Foam
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President's Page

Dear Fellow Members:

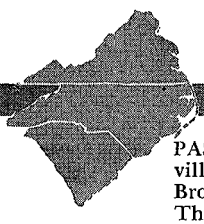
In my last letter to you I said the December freeze was now history. I did not know that history would be made over and over again.

I have had the pleasure of being with many of you in your club meetings and shows. When I think of the enthusiasm I have seen exhibited at your meetings and shows, I am sure we can look forward to next year with much anticipation.

In order to maintain the high quality of our bulletin, it is necessary that we increase the membership in our South Carolina Camellia Society. I hope that everyone will do their best to secure new members. We had over six hundred in South Carolina last year. We should increase that to one thousand members this year.

Your Directors are now making a concentrated effort to increase the membership. Won't you help?

Carroll T. Moon
President



PAST PRESIDENTS—John D. Carroll, Lexington; Cecil Morris, Greenville; Mansfield Latimer, Rock Hill; H. E. Ashby, Charleston; R. Frank Brownlee, Anderson; L.C. Wannamaker, Cheraw; Wendell M. Levi, Sumter; Thomas B. Butler, Spartanburg; Calder W. Seibels (deceased), Columbia; Joe G. Holland (deceased), Edgefield; Judge Marvin M. Mann, St. Matthews.

MEMBER REPORTS ON:

TREATMENT OF CAMELLIA BUDS WITH GIBBERELLIC ACID

By
Herbert Racoff
Columbia, S. C.

For the past several years we have been seeing outstanding camellia blooms exhibited at North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia shows. The feeling persisted that some of these blooms had been given something besides the usual culture and care. Several of our good growers in the Columbia area had not been able to grow comparable blooms of these varieties. The flowers were also being exhibited earlier than they bloomed for us. There was vague talk at the shows that these blooms were "gibbed." The whole affair was one of those hush-hush secrets and further inquiries only gained us a few grins and fertilizer recommendations.

Many Columbia growers had in previous years tried sprays, tablets and alcoholic solutions of Gibberellins without any apparent benefit. In some cases the results were actually disasterous.

Col. Reed Helps

The Journal of the American Camellia Society, November 1960, page 32, contains a one-column article by Col. Frank F. Reed, Pasadena, California, reporting early camellia blooms resulting from treating buds with aqueous solutions of Gibberellin. In April 1961, Mr. F. N. Bush wrote Col. Reed requesting further information and was furnished essentially the same facts given by Col. Reed in the article which appeared in the Camellia Journal, Jan. 1963, page 27. We should all be indebted to Col. Reed for making this knowledge available.

Recalling articles which had appeared in past years in ACS yearbooks, I then went back through the yearbooks and located in the 1959 yearbook, page 141, by C. P. North, Department of Horticul-

Editor's Note: Although Dr. Herbert Racoff of Columbia, S. C. has grown Camellias for 25 years he has continued to search for ways and means of growing bigger and better camellias. He has the technical knowledge and ability to utilize the latest scien tific information and apply it to the growing of camellias. He is also a generous man and in this article on Gibberellic Acid he has shared with all of us the results of his experiments.

tural Science, University of California, the article entitled "Some Effects of Gibberellic Acid on Camellia." A really fine treatise, somewhat technical, but surely worth reading and digesting if you plan to use Gibberellins.

Found Scource

During June 1962, Mrs. Racoff and I were vacationing in New York City and made the rounds of chemical houses in an effort to locate a water soluble source of Gibberellic Acid. At the Fisher Scientific Co., 633 Greenwich St., New York City, N. Y. we located the product used by us. Item No. 7444, Gibberellic Acid 85%, manufactured by Eastman Organic Chemicals (Distillation Products Industries), Rochester 3, New York. We have also purchased this identical product from W. H. Curtin and Co., P. O. Box 2122, Atlanta, Georgia. Item number and descriptions are identical. To date, shipments have been made from the W. H. Curtin and Co. Branch, P. O. Box 118, Houston Texas. The price at all places has been the same - $5.80 per gram. Be sure to include postage and, where applicable, sales tax. The Fisher Scientific Co. also lists ½ gram at $3.40. There are other drug companies who either make or market crystalline Gib berellic Acid. Two of these are Abbott Laboratories and Sigma Chemical Co.

A gram is a very small amount. There are approximately 454 grams in a pound, so don't be surprised at the small amount of material you get. When properly mixed and used, one gram will treat from 1250 to 2000 buds.

Mixing

The Gibberellic Acid is supplied as a white crystalline powder in a brown glass bottle. It is stable and can be kept in a cool place out of direct sunlight. Our supply is kept in a chest drawer in the bedroom. We preferred to weigh out the powder in small amounts sufficient to treat 25 to 40 buds and to use freshly prepared solutions. The Gibberellic Acid was weighed out in one-dram screw-cap vials. These are available at laboratory supply places. Ours were purchased from Power and Anderson of South Carolina, Inc., 1510 Barnwell St., Columbia, S. C. The entire gram of powder was weighted out 20 milligrams to a vial. The vials were also kept in the chest drawer and the diluting solution was added to the powder just prior to use. Any unused solution was put in the refrigerator for future use. Solutions kept as long as 3 weeks in the refrigerator were still effective. We did not keep any solution longer than 3 weeks. A study was in progress to determine keeping qualities of the solution at room temperature. The work was carried out on plants grown outdoors. The severe cold 6° early in December which killed or severly damaged most of the buds on plants grown in the open put an end to this part of the work. This work will be continued late this summer.

Gib Formula

We recommend the use of 20 milligrams (there are 1000 milligrams in a gram) to 1½ cubic centimeters (C.C.) of tap water. In places where tap water has a high mineral content, it might be advis able to use rain or distilled water. Gibberellic Acid is not soluble in water but is soluble in weak alkaline solutions. We have used both household ammonia directly from the bottle and bicarbonate of soda solution (1-3 teaspoonful to one ounce of water) added to the Gibberellic Acid and water, one drop

at a time, and shaking well between drops. It will be noted the solution clears up and the Gibberellic Acid no longer settles to the bottom of the vial when it goes into solution. With the size dropper used by me this required 3 to 4 drops. A 2 cc hypodermic syringe was used to measure the 1½ cubic centimeters of water. (There are about 500 cubic centimeters of water in a pint). The strength of this solution is about 11,000 parts per million. We have tried from 15 to 40 milligrams of Gibberellic Acid to 1½ cubic centimeters of water. This calculates to be from 8500 to 22,500 parts per million. All concentrations give satisfactory results but we settled on the 11,000 parts per million strength as giving best all around results.

Col. Reed suggests dividing one gram into 3 approximately equal portions and placing this 1-3 gram into a 2-ounce bottle containing one ounce of distilled water. He then adds 12 - 15 drops of household ammonia and cautions that this solution must be kept refrigerated. Using this method and with the 85% Gibberellic Acid previously mentioned the strength would be about 9800 parts per million which is within the acceptable range.

Parts per million can easily be calculated by those who are interested. For example, if we used 15 milligrams of 85% Gibberellic Acid to 1½ cubic centimeters of water, calculations would be

$$\frac{15}{1500} = \frac{X}{1{,}000{,}000}$$

1½ cubic centimeters is the equivalent of 1½ grams or 1500 milligrams

X = parts per million of Gibberellic Acid

$$1500\ X = 15{,}000{,}000$$

$$X = 10{,}000$$

However our product contains only 85% Gibberellic Acid, so 10,000 x .85 = 8500 parts per million.

By way of reminder, a drop is not a set quantity. The size of a drop depends on the diameter of the opening at the dropping end. The smaller the opening, the smaller the drop. The average dropper purchased at a drug store yields 15 drops per c.c. The one used by us yields 42 drops per c.c. I prefer a medicine dropper with a very small tip and small opening (1 millimeter tip-1/25 inch).

Treating Buds

Select well-developed floral buds. It is difficult to suggest bud size in discussing those to be treated because certain varieties such as Ville de Nantes have very small buds and others such as French Imperator, very large ones. Caution. If very young, poorly developed floral buds are treated they will develop extremely elongated and the resulting flowers will be deformed or fail to open properly.

Break out the growth bud as shown at A Figure 1 and fill the resulting cup with the solution using a medicine dropper. The advantage of a dropper with a small tip is apparent when a slender growth bud is encountered. We have also applied the solution of B between the growth and floral buds and have also painted the solution on the floral bud itself C using either the tip of a medicine dropper or a camelshair brush to spread the solution. Caution — Fill the medicine dropper only part full, handle it by the glass except when actually treating buds and keep the cap on the solution container except when filling the dropper. It is very easy to spill and lose a whole vial of solution when bent over, or to press the rubber bulb on the dropper accidentally.

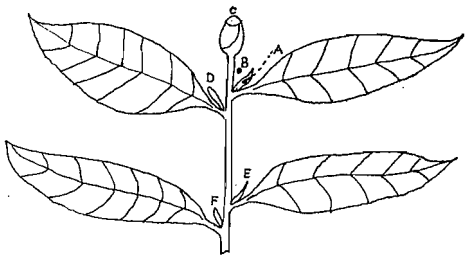


Figure 1

Favorite Method

There does not seem to be any advantage in treating a bud more than once. It is intended to study this aspect further next fall. We prefer to break out the growth bud where possible. If one of the other methods is used the growth bud will practically always start to grow and will have to be broken out anyway. We have encountered very small growth buds adjacent to floral buds where it was very difficult to break out the growth bud without also breaking off the leaf. In such cases one of the other methods should be selected.

Results

Over 4000 buds or more than 400 varieties grown both outdoors and under glass have been treated. The first buds on August 12, 1962, and treatment was even being continued at this writing during February 1963.

Gibberllic Acid is not the panacea for getting show winning blossoms. Many growers have given me the impression that all they need is a few drops of the magic chemical and presto! - choice flowers. A very rude awakening is in store for them. Gibberellic Acid when properly applied to the right buds on well-grown and well-fed, healthy camellia plants, will help to produce the finest flowers the plant is capable of producing. So

get those real good blooms with the extra something; the kind that wins camellia shows still requires the skills of a real good grower. The writer has grown camellias outdoors for about 25 years and has a good knowledge of outdoor cultural practices. His outdoor flowers shown in camellia shows in November were excellent. However, greenhouse culture is new to him and in spite of plenty of Gibberellic Acid he has failed to grow a Court of Honor bloom under glass this year.

Many of the blooms in Sept. Oct. and November were larger and prettier than those of the same varieties we are generally accustimed to seeing. This was especially true for those grown outdoors. We must remember however that these buds had not as yet been subjucted to severe cold. Most camellia growers know that usually the first few blooms produced by a plant are the best. Here all at one time we were seeing our plants producing their first few blossoms. Some of the flowers were changed in formation such as an anemone center in Ruth Royer, more than usual petaloids in one Drama Girl, slightly open center with visual stamens in Professor Sargent etc. The colors were also somewhat changed in some instances. For example, the Prof. Sargent blooms were pinkish red, the reds in some of the Donckelarii's were purplish red and some of the Rubra family blooms were markedly bluish purple in color. Authorities state the color changes are due to temperature effects rather than due to the Gibberellic Acid. There is some feeling that the texture is improved and we were unanimous in our opinion that the blossoms from treated buds hold on the plant better and keep better when refrigerated.

Divided Opinion

There is divided opinion but some of us believe that most of the benefit of treatment of buds which flowered after early January is in getting the blooms earlier (These were all under glass). There are a few varieties about which we agree the treatment definitely results in larger flowers even after early January. It should be interesting to see if we feel the same way after another blooming season. Many of the show goers who have been seeing the treated blossoms on the Court of Honor may be inclined to doubt these statements. However, the getting of earlier flowers creates more enthusiasm and interest on the part of the grower. This results in more attention to the plants, more frequent fertilization etc. and, therefore, results are difficult to evaluate.

Varieties prone to bull head still showed that tendency. Varieties which tend to produce lopsided flowers still did so after treatment. We are of the opinion that a prediction cannot be made as to when any given bud will bloom after treatment. This is by way of answer to the question when shall I treat buds to have blooms for so-and-so camellia show. Treated buds will bloom in from 3 weeks to 5 months. When treatment is done in September or October, we can expect quiet a few flowers in from 6 to 8 weeks. The list of varieties showing dates treated and dates bloomed should give an idea as to what can be expected.

The effects on floral buds treated in August, September and October were noticeable in from 3 days to 2 weeks. The flower buds were definitely increased in size. The buds seem to enlarge rapidly for a few weeks and then remained

rather stabbilized until they swelled prior to blooming. Buds treated after it became cold in November took from 3 weeks to 2 months to show effects (usually about 2 months). On some buds there was a definite elongation of the pedicel at the base but others could be differentiated from normal buds only by their increased size. There was little or no benefit to treating Sasanqua. Several buds were treated in late October on a Donation plant outdoors. A slight increase in bud size was seen at the time of the December 6 freeze. The plants grown outdoors and which wre blooming at the time of the severe December freeze (6°) did not show any more cold damage than those not in bloom. The buds which were showing color as would be expected were more severely damaged than those that were tight.

Adverse Effects

The mutilated growth buds adjacent to flower buds treated through October dried up. However, beginning early in November most of the mutilated growth buds demained green and during January and February many began to grow. Growth was also experienced from the leaf buds as far down as the third leaf below the treated bud (Figure 1 D, E. F.) In some cases the growth buds at D, E, F died.

Some varieties regularly seemed to be inferior following treatment. We plan to study this further next year.

Treated buds develop slowly after they begin to open. Buds that many of us would expect to see open in a day or so may take as long as two weeks to get fully open. On plants grown outdoors this would constitute an additional hazard because of longer risk to bad weather conditions.

On many blossoms, the sepals will separate and fall away from the calyx.

It should prove interesting to see what effect early growth (Jan., Feb.) will have on our plants next blooming season.

Cultural Practice

The showing of the treated blooms has been most effective in reviving interest. It has also created much controversy as to whether or not they should be placed in a separate class at camellia shows. The writer and his associates feel that most of this thinking is completely unjustified inasmuch as the use of Gibberellic Acid is just another cultural practice. Untreated blooms are still competing successfully against treated ones. Why don't the proponents of separate classes for treated blooms require separate classes for fibre glass versus glass greenhouses, for foliar feeders versus root feeders, for those who have automatic heat versus no heat, etc?

If you are a good grower here is a real opportunity to get earlier and some times better flowers, if you are a poor grower all you will get is earlier flowers and believe me come of them can be mighty poor.

It is my understanding that Camellia Petal Blight begins to show in mid January. Here now is a chance to get blossoms early before blight becomes active.

The writer wishes to thank the following for their cooperation and observations made available in preparing this articles: W. M. Arant, W. Columbia, F. N. Bush, W. G. Duncan and Jim W. Pinkerton all of Columbia.

We urge all growers to keep records and dates of treatment, dates of blooming, beneficial and adverse effects, etc. The writer will

be glad to hear from you and we shall all look forward to bigger and better camellia shows, especially those fall shows which we predict will in years to come be the big ones where the outside grower can successfully compete with the underglass grower.

Varieties marked with * were grown outdoors, others under glass:

Variety	Date Treated	Date Bloomed	Remarks
*Alba Plena	9-2-62 (5)	11-12-62 (2) 11-14-62 (2) 11-16-62 (2)	
Arabian Nights	9-2-62 (2)	11-5-62 11-7-62	
Adolph Audusson Var	11-25-62	2-3-63	
Betty Sheffield	9-2-62	1-15-63	
Betty Sheffield Supreme	12-23-62 (2)	1-24-63 1-20-63	
Clarice Carlton	8-12-62	1-12-63	
*Capt. John Smith	9-6-62		Killed by cold 12-6-62
Daikagura	10-14-62	11-8-62 11-14-62	
Dixie Knight Var	9-2-62	2-20-63	
*Dr Tinsley	8-12-62	9-26-62 10-25-62	Poor
	10-21-62		Killed by cold 12-6-62
Drama Girl	9-2-62	2-20-63	
*Donckelarii	9-2-62	11-1-62	Purplish color
Donckelarii	11-21-62	1-21-63	
*Duchess of Sutherland	9-2-62		Killed by cold 12-6-62
Dutchess of Sutherland Pink	9-2-62	11-17-62	Partly bulled full center
Edwin Folk Var	11-21-62 12-1-62	2-15-63 2-23-63	
*Eleanor Haygood	9-16-62 (6)	11-18-24-62	
Elegans	9-2-62	12-1-62	Bulled
	10-14-62 (2)	12-1-62 (2)	Poor
	9-18-62 (3)	12-13-62 (2)	
		12-18-62 (1)	Poor

Emily Wilson	9-29-62 (2)	1-21-62 1-12-63	
Emmett Barnes	8-12-62 (4)	9-20-62 9-25-62 11-5-62 1-15-63	Bulled Bulled
Emmett Pfingstl	12-1-62	2-9-63	
*Eugene Lize	9-2-62		Killed by cold 12-6-62
Evan Davis Var	10-14-62	1-16-63	
Five Star General	11-27-62 (2)	2-15-63 (2)	
*Flowerwood	9-18-62 (6)	11-8-62 (1) 11-10-62 (1) 11-16-62 (2) 11-24-62 (2)	
Flowerwood	11-25-62	1-20-63	
Florence Stratton	9-18-62 (4)	11-23-62	3 bulled
Geisha Girl	8-12-62	9-16-62	bulled
Guilio Nuccio	9-29-62 11-25-62	1-24-63 1-28-63	
High Wide & Hansome	11-25-62	1-15-63	
*High Hat	10-18-62	1-17-62	
Indian Summer	8-12-62 (3)	11-5-62	3 bulled
Jessie Katz	9-2-62	11-17-62	
*Joseph Pfingstl	9-2-62	11-15-62	bulled
Joshua Youtz	9-29-62 (2)	10-20-62 11-12-62	bulled
Julia France	11-25-62	2-11-63 2-13-63	
*K. Sawada	9-2-62 (6)	11-19-62 (2) 11-24-62 (2) 11-26-62 (2) 11-30-62 (2)	
Kelerec	12-1-62	2-13-62 2-22-63	Poor
Kramer's Supreme	10-21-62 1-25-63	2-7-63 2-16-62	

Lady Clare	8-12-62 (3)	11-21-62 1-15-63 1-20-63	
*Lady Humes Blush	10-7-62	11-18-62 11-19-62 11-22-62	
*Lady K.	9-2-62		Killed by cold 12-6-62
Lady Macon	1-24-62	2-17-63	
Laura Walker	10-21-62 10-29-62	1-28-63 11-8-62	
*Lookaway	9-2-62 (3)	11-18-62 (3)	Bulled
Lindsey Neil	12-1-62	1-26-63	Poor
Lucy Hester	9-29-62	1-10-63	
Marie Bracey	9-18-62	10-27-62	
	9-29-62	11-8-62	Stayed cup shaped
	10-11-62	11-25-62	Stayed cup shaped
Mary Ann Houser	8-12-62	11-20-62	Very large but lop sideed
	11-25-62 (2)	1-2-63 1-26-63	
*Mathotiana	9-2-62 (4)	10-17-62 10-19-62 10-20-62 10-28-62	
Mathotiana	9-18-62 11-27-62	11-17-62 1-22-63	
*Mathotiana Var	9-18-62 (5)	11-1-10 (5)	Purplish blue color
	9-25-62 (6)	11-10-14-62 (6)	Purplish blue color
	10-1-62 (5)	11-14-25-62 (5)	Purplish blue color
*Mathotiana Supreme	9-2-62 (2)	11-14-62	Purplish blue color
		11-16-62	Purplish blue color
Mathotiana Supreme	10-12-62	11-23-62	
	11-25-62 (3)	1-20-63 1-22-63 1-29-63	

Miss Savannah	10-21-62 11-7-62 (2)	12-12-62 1-27-63 1-29-63	
Morning Glow	9-2-62 11-27-62 (2)	11-17-62 1-27-62 2-23-62	
Mrs. D. W. Davis	10-24-62 11-25-62 (2)	11-18-62 1-10-63 1-15-63	
*Mrs. K. Sawada	9-2-62 (4)	10-21-62 10-24-62 11-14-62 11-16-62	
*Mrs. Charles Cobb	10-14-62 (2)	11-22-62 (2)	
Nellie McGrath	9-29-62	11-23-62	
Prelude	9-29-62	1-20-63	
*Pearl Maxwell	9-2-62 (5)	11-14-62 (2) 11-17-62 (1) 11-24-62 (2)	
*Prof. C. S. Sargent	10-7-62 (10	11-14-26-62 (10)	Excellent, purplish pink color, mis taken for French Imperator, slightly open center
Reg Ragland	9-29-62 11-25-62	1-17-62 1-20-62	
Raggedy Ann	11-27-62	2-12-63	
Rosea Superba	11-25-62 (2)	1-22-63 2-10-63	
R. L. Wheeler Var	11-25-62	1-25-63	
Sawada's Dream	10-7-62 11-23-62	1-25-63 2-5-63	
Simeon	11-23-62 (3)	2-23-63 (3	
*Sweeti Vera	9-2-62 (2)	10-18-62 11-26-62	
Tick Tock	10-21-62	1-31-63	
*Tomorrow	9-2-62 (5)	10-22-62 (1)	4 killed by cold 12-6-62
Tomorrow	9-29-62 10-21-62	1-22-62 1-31-62	

*Ville de Nantes	9-2-62		killed by cold 12-6-62
Ville de Nantes	8-12-62	10-15-62	
	11-25-62 (3)	2-7-63	
		2-11-63	
		2-15-63	
White Empress	9-18-62	11-25-62	
		11-28-62	
		12-1-62	
Wildwood	11-23-62 (2)	2-20-63	
		2-23-63	

These dates were chosen at random from the data on hand. Data was not kept on many buds treated. I know of several Drama Girl plants whose buds were treated in Oct. and Nov. which had bloomed out at this writing while other buds treated by me during September and October have failed to bloom at this writing in mid February. If your plants usually bloom early they will bloom still earlier following treatment. Those of us who are accustomed to getting our blooms late will get them earlier following treatment but not as early as those growers who treat buds and who normally get early blooms.

In Memoriam

Our love and sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Quattlebaum of North Charleston, S. C. Mrs. Quattlebaum passed away the latter part of last year and Mr. Quattlebaum passed away a few weeks ago.

Bill Quattlebaum was a Vice President of the South Carolina Camellia Society and was active in growing camellias. He had written several articles for Carolina Camellias. Susie Quattlebaum was not only active in the camellia world but was also an accredited arrangement judge and the beautiful camellia, Susie Q, was named for her.

Mrs. Cecil Morris also passed away since the winter issue of the Bulletin and our love sympathy is also extended to Mr. Cecil Morris and his family.

Cecil is a past president of the South Carolina Camellia Society and Lucile Morris was always at his side as they traveled the camellia circuit.

All of these good camellia friends will be missed but not forgotten.

PROS AND CONS ON:

GIBBERELLIC ACID

Although Gibberellic Acid has been used by some growers for a number of years it is just now being generally used and a great deal of feeling both pro and con has been generated by its use.

In view of this we feel that the facts should be separated from the fiction.

Fiction: Its expensive.
Fact: Not so. Probably cost 1/3 cent per treated bloom.

Fiction: Its a cure all.
Fact: Not so. The good grower will grow good blooms without gib—probably better ones with it. The poor grower will **not** grow good blooms with gib — or without it.

Fiction: Its a passing fad.
Fact: Only time will tell but we say not so. More and more people will use it as they see what it will do and realize that they can get early blooms of most varieties in the fall before cold weather.

Fiction: Its too much trouble to use.
Fact: Not so. Very simple to use. Less trouble than most things we do for our camellias.

Fiction: Some people won't use it.
Fact: We agree. That's true. Some people won't like it or use it. But others will like and will use it.
Fiction: Some people won't think its fair to use it.
Fact: True again. Nothing is ever approved 100% but just because some people won't think its fair to use won't mean that its not ethical or that people won't use it.

CONCLUSION: Biggest objection will be to use of gib on blooms that are entered in shows. This is a matter of personal opinion and every individual has the right to his own opinion. Some feel there should be a different classification for gib treated blooms. Others see no difference in using gib and/or special fertilizer formulas and other special cultural treatments.

We would think that this should be left up to the individual show. If they want a separate class and are willing to put up with the additional complications of putting in the extra class that should be their privilege.

But one thing should be remembered. There are good growers and poor growers and no rules will equalize that situation. A good grower will produce better flowers without gib than a poor grower will with it. **The use of gib will in no way eliminate the need for proper camellia culture.**

As someone said, "If you can't beat 'em join 'em." After all aren't we all trying to grow better and better blooms?