



THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

New Camellias Brighten Local Garden Scenes

Bright new stars in the camellia heaven are the new varieties of camellias now available to California gardeners. The new varieties include some of the reticulatas which were brought into this country in 1918 from China and have recently begun to bloom. Three of these Yunnan Reticulatas, Chang's Temple, Lion Head and Crimson Robe, are cited by the California Association of Nurserymen as outstanding new camellias.

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Chang's Temple has wavy fluted petals and is deep pink to light red variegated. Its leaves are thick, dark green and broad. The petals of Lion Head are scalloped and twisted forming semi-double blossoms of rose-pink and clear white. Stamens are interspersed in the center of the bloom and the foliage is deep green. Crimson Robe is also a semi-double camellia, in shades of red.

New Varieties
Among the new varieties in the Sasangua type is Ocean Springs—apple blossom in color with wavy margins. Jean May in this series is a semi-double camellia in bluish pink shades and Pink Snow, another semi-double, is rose pink. A sport of Chandiari, C. M. Wilson, a member of the Japonicas, is a soft pink. Other new Japonicas are Shiro-Chan, a white sport of C. M. Wilson, and Dr. Tinsley, which is semi-double and delicate pink in color.

In caring for camellias there are several rules of thumb to observe that will make their culture successful. First, remember that camellias appreciate friable soil, slightly acid, with plenty of humus. Set the camellia plant in the ground at the depth it was planted in the nursery (noted by the soil stain on the stem). Soak the area and mulch around the plant to keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Fertilize moderately at the time of planting and as new growth appears.

Pruning Tips
Most nurserymen recommend a little pruning when the blooming season arrives before new growth starts. In watering it is often beneficial to wash off the plant's foliage. Avoid washing off during the heat of the day, however, or when there are open flowers on the plant.

The gardener who goes in for container cultivation will find camellias are highly suitable for this type of gardening also. There are several methods of growing camellias this way. One is to plant several camellias in one container, perhaps a taller bush in the center with bushier varieties grouped about. Or try several plants in a long box—the results, a movable hedge that can be used as a screen. Check with your nurseryman to see his supply of the new camellia varieties and plan to set some in now.

No Two Alike

No two hardwood floors are exactly alike. Each has individuality in character and beauty of grain, points out the Hardwood Flooring Council of Southern California. Interesting patterns are formed by use of stock selected for variations in color or other natural irregularities. Most hardwood strip flooring nowadays is tongued and grooved at the factory, so that each piece joins the other snugly.

Tools, Wrenches Taken

Tools and wrenches valued at \$125 were stolen from his car as it was parked by the Half Way House on Pacific Coast Hwy., David B. Hammond, of Wilmington, told Torrance police Friday.



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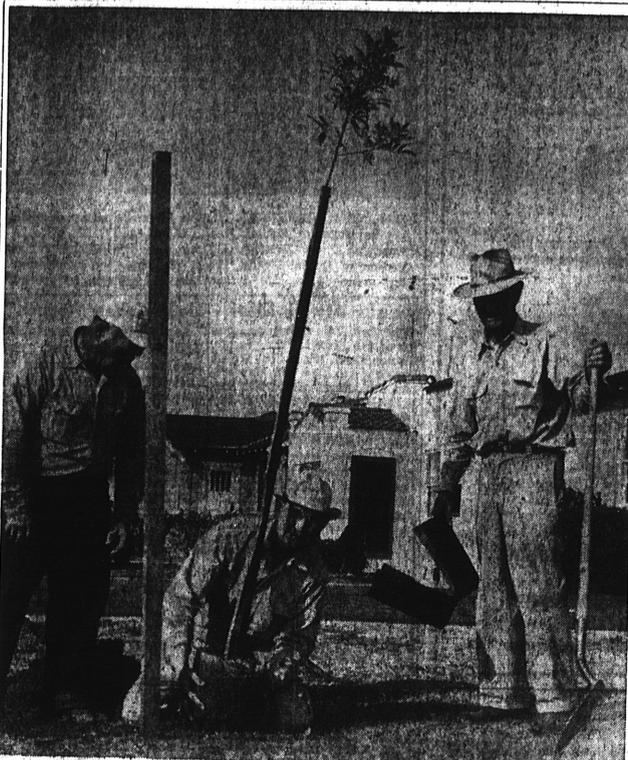
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PLANTING NEW TREES . . . Members of the City Street Department planted 28 new trees on Andreo Ave. this week after residents banded together to underwrite cost of them. The city removed the old trees which had become an eyesore in the neighborhood. Shown here (left to right) are John Dummeyer, Tom Mann, and Mark Fox.

Violas Serve As Color Guards In Winter Garden

Violas rate as a top quality winter bedding plant. They are naturally hardy and withstand the rugged winter weather and still yield a bountiful display of continuous bloom during the season when color is all too



scarce in the garden area. Available in solid shades of apricot, red, white, blue and yellow as well as a mixture of many odd shades and combinations there is much color variety to be found in the viola family. Still, the favorite colors year after year seem to be the solid blue and the solid yellow as these two total over three-fourths of the total violas sold. As the two combine beautifully, it is easily understood that they would be popular but a little more attention should be paid to the red and white combination as well as to the lovely informal appearance of a bed or border of the mixed violas.

Quick Color
Often at this season of the year, viola are available as blooming nursery transplants. This one way to get quick color into the garden with little or no wasted time, as the viola is able to continue its blooming cycle with little or no interruption if carefully handled. Sometimes the plants may be a little overgrown, in which case

a slight trimming will prove quite beneficial.

Viola are quick to recover from such treatment and will be back in flower production for a longer period of time than if they were not trimmed. Several other plants that are available as blooming transplants at this time would be English daisy, pansy, primula malacoides, sweet alyssum and Iceland poppy. In some areas flat grown dwarf border begonias are also to be found in bloom at this season.

Need Humus
Violas do require special attention to soil preparation for good results. Because of their light fibrous root system they should have abundant humus in the soil such as steer manure, peat moss or leaf mold. The soil should be well worked previous to planting and should be well drained as viola tend to rot out in overly damp soil.

Good for Borders
As a border plant, Viola is of a proven quality. Few plants serve better for this purpose than does the viola, especially during the fall and winter months. For this reason the California Bedding Plant Advisory Board has searched out a few unusual applications of this lovely plant. For instance, it is useful for planters in outdoor areas or as a temporary indoor blooming plant.

Window boxes that are hibernating for the winter will perk up with a planting of viola. Another spot of high value is in the rock garden for viola as a natural alpine type plant and will thrive on the well-drained slope of the average rock garden. Also for pocket planting on a sloping bank or atop a retaining wall viola will find favor. Or in small beds at the corner of a lawn or around some newly-planted tree a full planting of solid viola will look right and proper.

Another suggestion by the California Bedding Plant Advisory Board is for the use of viola for cutting purposes. Although short-stemmed, the flowers will keep quite well and work well for low vases. With the stems snapped off, the heads can be floated in a bowl. Also they can be used for a small informal corsage although there is little fragrance.

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