such as ease of rooting, etc. An important part of my own project is the isolation and determination of what are true species, so that I can 'start from scratch,' so to speak, in my breeding program. This sort of thing should be aggressively sponsored by the Society, by the establishment, in Florida, of a project under authoritative direction, such as the horticultural department of the University of Florida.

"I have tried to determine which are true species by a study of such bibliography as is available, and by finding which varieties come true from seed. In connection with the former, many of the true species we grow now are pictured in color in English garden magazines published a hundred and fifty years ago, and were accurately described in them. Such sources have been invaluable to me.

"It may be of interest to many to learn that the first species of Hibiscus Rosa-sinensis brought to England were doubles. In fact, the earliest mention of Hibiscus Rosa-sinensis that I have been able to locate is Van Rheede's 'Hortus Indices Malabaricus' published in 1678. This describes a pink double, and though the plate is not colored, it looks like our Kona. This species was native to the Malabar Coast, where many fine Hibiscus were later collected for English greenhouses. The flower became a very popular 'stove plant' after its introduction in England about 1700. But as late as 1826, one writer says '—the double varieties of this species, crimson, yellow, buff, and even white are not uncommon in collections, but the single state . . . although much handsomer, is comparatively rare.'

"My own work is primarily designed to develop varieties of hibiscus sufficiently hardy to permit the enjoyment of this flower over a wider geographical range. This is being approached by crossing true species known to withstand lower temperatures, and then selecting seedlings of good flower and foliage characteristics for further crossing. Ease of growing on their own roots and resistance to cold, wet soil are also factors that are being sought.

"The work is discouragingly slow, but with the development of the Society program, I feel that I, as well as others, interested in hibiscus can look for real assistance."

INTERESTING USES OF WOODY PLANTS

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For many years my father was actively a few simple ideas on interesting uses of woody plants that anyone may use if he chooses.

In striving for the unusual, one must

Of course we must consider Azaleas, although somewhat fleetingly, as so many dissertations have been made on them and so many assertions made about them already. I have seen Azaleas of many kinds used in strange and wonderful ways and places, but perhaps some of you "Green Thumb Boys" who like to putter around with plants will get more pleasure out of topworking a strong growing variety like Formosa or Elegans with a multivariety grown. It may be done by the use of ordinary whip grafts placed in the stubs of the Azalea's original head, the idea being to see how much of a bouquet you can produce and how quickly. Some beautiful combinations could be achieved but on the other hand it is conceivable that a mixture somewhat less than aesthetic might evolve!

Most of us are more or less familiar with Sasanqua Camellias and know in a vague sort of way that they possess certain advantages not inherent in Camellia Japonica. Do we realize though that these remarkable plants are not only superb, early flowering shrubs for incidental placement in the garden or landscape plan, but are also easily converted to make grand hedges? Their comparatively fast growth and full-foliage habit, coupled with a truly noteworthy tolerance in regard to soils and soil moisture, recommend them for the gardener or even the rank layman who is anxious to try something new. As with Camellia Japonica, the Sasanqua cannot be successfully grown everywhere in Florida, but at least its likes and dislikes are much less pronounced.

I do not want to sound like a nursery catalog, however useful they may be in their place, but in the Genus Camellia there are two shrubs similar yet quite different from the species just mentioned. The first is Camellia Thea, which, at fiirst glance is not startling in appearance, although presenting an attractively fresh green color and form. But, for those devotees of the English national drink, the brew made from its new tender leaves, adequately parched and simmered, is shall we say "Just a bit of all right, by jove!" In short, the tea plant of commerce has found its way from India and Formosa and now is available to us fortunate ones in the South, both as an eminently satisfactory evergreen shrub and as the makings of a refreshing thirst-quencher.

The second of these Camellia cousins is Cleyera Japonica. It is, besides being a most attractive plant, one of the few, if not the only one I can think of, that is virtually fool-proof as woody plants go, and also almost bug-proof, in our experience at least. (If anyone would like to take execption to either of these statements, please feel free to do so when I'm through.) This amazing evergreen shrub seems to thrive on adversity and I have yet to see one killed or even materially damaged by too much water or a superabundance of dry weather. We, at Glen Saint Mary, have come to look upon the Cleyera as practically invincible within its adapted range and are apt to recommend it for the distraught homeowner who is beset with more than the usual number of plant troubles. There is no really unusual way to handle a Cleyera—you just plant it and it grows—not like Jack's Bean Stalk nor yet the Green Bay Tree, but only in its own interesting, dependable way. The chief claim to the fame of Cleyera lies not in versatility of treatment, but in the mere fact that it can survive and thrive in so many unlikely places.

In bringing to an end this potpourri of horticultural observations, may I leave this thought with you? Simplicity, after all, is the best policy and can usually be attained if one works at it—frequently it does not come easily.