

tional Daylily popularity and many others are certainly adding importantly to the rich horticultural heritage of Florida and other American gardeners.

Dr. Traub published the first article on vegetative propagation of *Hemerocallis*, in the 1936 *Herbertia* (Vol. III), his work being an adaptation of Ida Luyten's Dutch studies in the propagation of Hybrid *Amaryllis* by cuttage. Two special daylily numbers of *Herbertia* have been issued by the American Plant Life Society, the first in 1941 being already a classic text in the field.

In passing it may be of interest to recall that in *Herbertia*'s account of the first national daylily show held in Orlando, April 18-19, 1940, outstanding daylilies on view included Prof. Watkins' Mrs. John J. Tigert, Prof. E. L. Lord's Hector, R. W. Wheeler's Ruby Supreme, Wyndham Hayward's Emperor Jones, Dr. Traub's La Tulipe, and Dr. Stout's Patricia and Dauntless, the latter two grown and exhibited by the writer.

Mr. Wheeler, a distinguished Florida daylily hybridizer, and rated among top American breeders at this time, has a long succession of fine daylily varieties to his credit introduced over the past

10 years. Among these are such nationally known and recognized varieties as "Amherst," "Naranja," Haile Selassie, Duncan, Bobolink, Raven, Hazel Sawyer, etc., besides his remarkable Ruby Supreme, a daylily that rated 17th nationally in a recent *Hemerocallis* popularity poll.

The writer introduced for Dr. Traub one of his outstanding seedlings early in the 1940's, "Duchess of Windsor," which has subsequently become a national favorite. Others of his breeding which are widely grown and appreciated are Indian Chief, Mayor Starzynski, George Kelso, Dr. Stout, Gen. MacArthur, Peony Red, etc. He is continuing his daylily breeding in Beltsville, Md., and some of his varieties have been introduced to the trade by the United States Department of Agriculture in recent years.

Mrs. Taylor, a sincere and gifted daylily hybridizer, who has given something of a woman's sympathy and charm to her daylily creations, has had a hybridizing and display garden at Ocala for a number of years which annually attracts many visitors. Among her delightful varieties are Prima Donna, Rubaiyat, Gunga Din, etc.

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH WITH CAMELLIAS

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The camellia is grown extensively throughout the South and on the Pacific Coast and, to varying degrees, in other parts of the United States. Its popularity in these areas, though not in numbers of plants, ranks along with azaleas, roses, and other favored flowering shrubs. Planting stock is produced by commercial nurseries in large

quantities under a multiplicity of variety names. On the other hand, camellias offer opportunities for amateurs to propagate certain favored plants by cutting and grafting methods.

Camellia references in the literature dates back 250 years or more and they were listed in nursery catalogs 150 years ago, yet there has not been a great amount of research conducted with it. One great problem that has existed over the years has been that of the correct nomenclature and the spell-

ing of the original names of the varieties in existence. Needed also was more information on propagation and the adaptation of species and varieties.

In 1939 work was initiated in the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station by the late R. J. Wilmot, Assistant Horticulturist, Horticulture Department. These investigations were suggested by Dr. H. Harold Hume, then with the Experiment Station, later Provost and Dean of Agriculture, but now retired. The project was mainly for the purpose of identification of varieties and to standardize the type and to get those with several names placed under the original name with the correct spelling. The testing and adaptation

One of the first things that had to be done was that of working up a key which could be followed in the classification of varieties. This key took into consideration number, shape, color and arrangement of the petals, stamen arrangement, general flower conformation, and all factors that would determine just where a particular variety should be placed. Plant characteristics also had to be taken into consideration. All of this entailed a tremendous amount of detailed work that was time consuming. After a study was made it was necessary to recheck every character to be sure no mistake in the data had been made.

A search of the literature, including

getting together the plants when the investigations were started in 1939.

The species and related genera in the collections now number a total of 20, from many foreign countries in addition to the United States, that are used for various research purposes. Adaptation and general cultural requirements, in addition to their uses in locations in home and other types of plantings, have been investigated. The *Sasanquak* seems to hold considerable promise in certain places since there are some that are quite satisfactory. Plants of tea apparently can be grown successfully over the South. They should find their place in various arrangements since the plants are bushy and rather dense in growth, but also with attractive small to medium sized white flowers. There are red flowered forms in the Orient but so far it has not been possible to obtain any of these.

In addition to work on classification, the research has included propagation methods and nutrition. The germination of seed in pots with sphagnum moss was found to be successful and convenient. This permitted frequent examinations and those seed which had germinated could be removed and

placed in pots containing satisfactory soil and grown until they are large enough for transplanting.

Methods for making cuttings have been studied also. It was found that the type and character of the cut was not a factor in the rooting of cuttings so long as wood of proper age and condition was used, together with a suitable rooting medium.

R. J. Wilmot was born in Rochester, New York, January 8, 1898, and died May 7, 1950, at Gainesville, Florida. He was graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B. S. in Agriculture in 1922 and received his M. S. A. Degree from the University of Florida in 1931. He was associated with the Florida State Board from 1927-1933, and Assistant Horticulturist, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, from 1933-1950. From the organization of the American Camellia Society in 1945 until his death he served as its Executive Secretary.

Mr. Wilmot's untimely death removed an authority on camellias from among ornamental horticulturists. He was in demand as a judge and served a number of camellia shows each year.

NOTES ON CAMELLIA DISEASES

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Camellias were popular garden plants in Florida and the South many years ago. That interest has been revived in recent years to such an extent that they are now one of our most important woody ornamentals. Like every crop plant grown in quantity, they have their troubles.

The fungous disease known as die-

back continues to be the most serious disease of camellias in Florida. The symptoms are only too well known to almost every nurseryman and private grower of camellias. If you do not have it in your planting, you are lucky or persistent. This trouble is most noticeable in the Spring when the new growth is expanding or has just expanded. At that time a new shoot wilts suddenly, dries out and turns brown. Such dead leaves and twigs are very brittle and easily broken off. However