

Farm, Home and Garden

By Lillie L. Madsen

Camellia Flower Blight Brings Grief; Control Plan Suggested

★ By Lillie L. Madsen
★ Garden Editor, The Statesman
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★ Now we have camellia flower blight with us. Not that it is a new disease, but it is new as a serious disease in Oregon. In fact it is the first serious disease of *Camellia Japonica* to appear in North America.

It was first reported in Japan in 1919 and probably was brought into California with imported nursery stock. Flower blight was observed in a nursery in central California in 1938. Apparently it spread from there to other Pacific coast nurseries and to a number of nurseries in the southern states. So far as is known flower blight does not affect any other ornamental shrubs.

In recent information put out by Roy A. Young and J. A. Milbrath, pathologists at Oregon State college, the disease may be recognized by brown spots which develop on the petals of camellia flowers. These spots become larger and cover the whole petal. After a few days the whole flower becomes brown. No other part of the camellia plant is affected.

The disease is caused by a fungus similar to the one that causes brown rot of cherries, peaches and plums. It is inactive in the bases of old-infected flowers from late spring to January. The inactive form may remain in the plant debris and soil under a plant for several years and serve as a source of infection each spring when the camellias are in bloom.

The state college pathologists say that at present an extensive program of sanitation seems the best way to combat camellia flower blight. They suggest the following control program until further control measures can be developed.

1. Remove and destroy any camellia flowers that show the flower blight disease. This will prevent the inactive stage of the fungus from becoming mixed with soil and leaves beneath camellia plants.

2. If the flower blight disease has been observed previously in a planting, remove all old leaves, flowers, and other plant debris from underneath the camellia plants.

3. All diseased camellia flowers and plant debris should be burned or buried deeply to prevent the development of spore cups. In no case should such material be placed on a compost heap.

4. If spore cups still develop under camellia plants after all leaves and debris are removed, it is likely that they are growing up from old flowers buried in the soil. These can be eliminated by removing the top 3 or 4 inches of soil from beneath the camellia plants and replacing it with new soil.

5. The value of a mulch of sawdust or peat moss in preventing development of spore cups is not known. It is suggested that if a mulch is used, however, a uniform layer at least 4 inches

deep should be applied, since spore cups may grow up to 2 to 3 inches from a diseased flower.

When a nursery is found to be infested with camellia flower blight the following steps are suggested for the propagation of camellias under blight-free conditions:

1. Use only lining-out stock known to be propagated in soil free from sclerotia of the flower-blight fungus.

2. Plant in soil on which camellias have not previously been grown and at as great a distance as possible from old camellia plantings.

3. Keep all flower buds removed to prevent clean planting from becoming infested.

Prevent transfer of plant debris and soil from infested areas to new planting.

5. When bringing in older plants from other areas, remove all flower parts from the plants and the top two or three inches of soil from the ball to avoid introducing sclerotia of the flower-blight fungus.

6. Clean up all old camellia plantings. Rake up and burn all dead flowers and plant debris and dispose of new blooms as soon as spots develop on the petals.

7. Encourage all camellia growers, commercial and private, to attempt to prevent further spread of camellia flower blight by observing all sanitary precautions before moving from infested plantings.

Garden Question Box

QUESTION: Leaves of Oriental poppy getting brown. Blight? Primrose leaves are stunted, curled. Root weevil? Disease? Mrs. R. C. G.

ANSWER:—Description is a big meager, but sounds like it might be bacterial blight which does attack Oriental poppies. Some new dusts and sprays claim some control, but there is still no guarantee. Best control is still to destroy the plants infested and disinfect the soil. Are you sure that injury is not from the very coldish spring? Believe injury to primroses is root weevil. In spite of careful baiting and spraying a few seem to remain with us. Suggest taking up plants and inspecting roots. There are some fine new poisons offered which can be poured around plants to kill weevil in soil. Local garden stores carry them.

QUESTION:—Want to transplant some rose bushes. Is it too late? Mrs. G. P. B., Salem.

ANSWER:—They may still be planted if done at once. Our season is late this year. We have had roses in bloom early in April in some years. Plant carefully, being sure that the hole into which the roots go is large enough to spread them out. Should the weather turn dry (which almost seems impossible as I am writing this) be sure to water well until the plant becomes well established. Roses planted late in the season naturally require more supplementary moisture the first year.

QUESTION:—My Christmas cactus does not bloom. Can you tell me the cause? (A leaf specimen, nicked at the edges and also red on the edges accompanied the question). Also is there a weed killer which will kill wild rosebushes growing among peonies. W. F. Salem.

ANSWER:—The leaf looks as if it may have suffered some weather injury. Also as if it had been chewed by some insect, although I have never seen an insect or worm on the Christmas cactus. The cactus need very good drainage, the pot should not be too large, and it should be given more water than other cacti. Also the potting mixture is somewhat different. Suggested is has been 1 part sharp sand; 2 parts loam, 1 part leaf mold, and

a half teaspoonful of bone meal to an eight-inch pot.

A spray that would kill the rose bushes would also kill the peonies.

QUESTION:—Can you give me another name for moonwort. We had something which we called that when we were little and I can't find it listed. B. L., Stayton.

ANSWER:—This is also called honesty or satin-flower. Botanically it is referred to as *Lunaria*.

QUESTION:—When is the earliest one can sow sweet corn and what is the name of an early variety?

ANSWER:—This depends somewhat upon the condition of your soil and the type of season we are having. Usually mid-April is listed as about the earliest time. By using a series of the newer hybrids one can be sure of a longer, more stretched-out harvest. Try Spangcross for early, Marcross or arnelcross for mid-season, and Golden Cross Bantam for late. Midget-eared varieties are also meeting with favor and are being recommended for home planting.

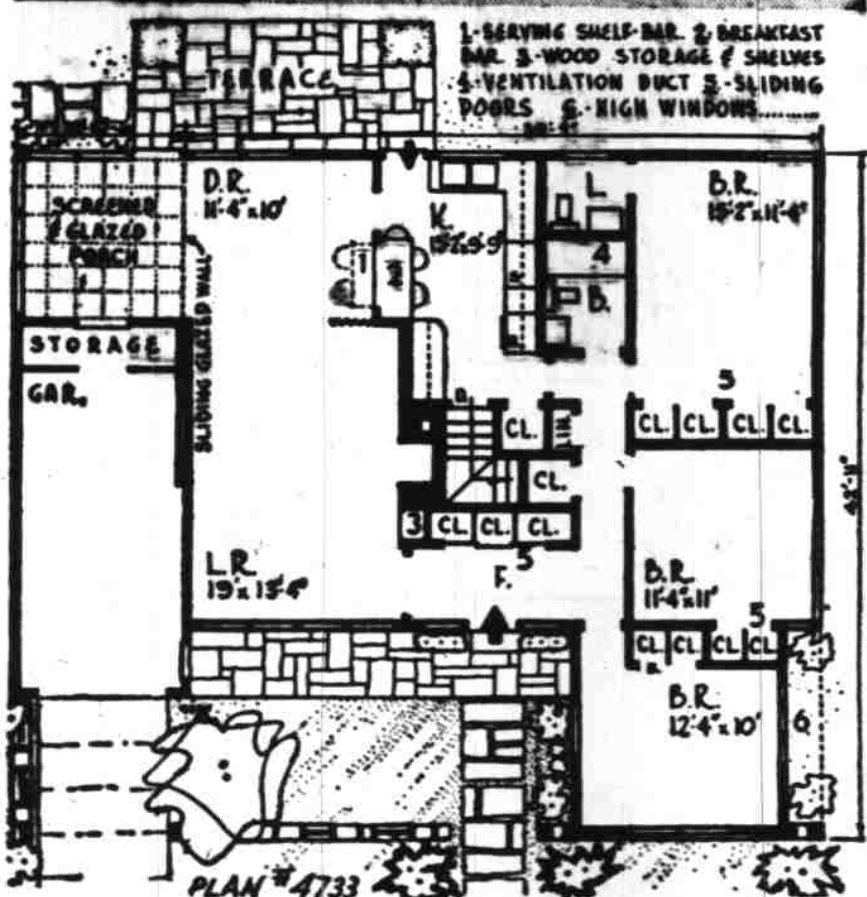
QUESTION:—My cedar tree is losing its foliage and looks sick. Is this the budworm or is it some fungus disease? What should I use for dusty or spray? H. T. I. Aurora.

ANSWER:—This may be what is known as Berckmann's disease. It is controlled by the use of good copper spray, drenching the plant outside and inside. If you ask for a good copper spray at the reliable seed stores, you will get what you want. This comes under many different trade names. Drop a self-addressed envelope and I will give you the names of some.

Raspberry Worms Can Be Prevented

Worms in the raspberries and loganberries, and weevils in the garden peas (and there were lots of them last year) can be prevented by the use of rotenone dusts or sprays. Begin applying when the flowers open, and continue throughout the blooming period, at three to four day intervals. Apply rotenone to the open flowers.

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



A smart plan for a small and compact three-bedroom house that will fit on a small plot. This is Plan 4733 by Architect Herman York, 199-33 Kene Ave., Hollis 7, N. Y. The house without garage occupies an area of 1,455 square feet. Thirteen closets and other features are included. A basement is optional, stairway allowing sufficient space for a ground floor heater room. (AP)

Garden Calendar

APRIL 11—Swegle Road Garden club. Hostess: Mrs. Ross Bales. Topic: "Dusting and Spraying." Speaker: Mrs. Daniel Casey.

APRIL 12—Mt. Angel Garden club, City hall, 7:30 p. m.

APRIL 13—Brooks Garden club, 1 p. m. Hostess: Mrs. Alma Learman. Topic: Special Garden.

APRIL 13—Men's Garden club of Salem, YMCA, 7:45.

APRIL 13—Lalish Garden club. Hostess: Mary McClure. Topic "Spring Arrangements and Flower Show Practices." Speaker, Mrs. W. A. Ingles, Stayton.

APRIL 14—Jordan Garden club. Hostess: Minnie Gialer. Roll call: Perennial vegetables or herbs. Program: Delphiniums. Speaker: Polly Beagley.

APRIL 15—Estacada Garden club Spring Flower show. Hours: 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 p. m. Estacada grade school building.

APRIL 17—Jefferson Friendly Garden club, City hall, 8 p. m.

APRIL 21—Stayton Garden club.

APRIL 22-23—American Primrose society show, Masonic temple, Portland.

APRIL 27—Brooks Garden club, 1 p. m. Hostess: Mrs. Golda Hadley. Topic: companion Plants. Mrs. Anna Dunlavy, president.

APRIL 29—Gladstone Garden club flower show and plant sale.

APRIL 30—Mt. Angel Primrose show, Mt. Angel city hall.

MAY 4—American Begonia Society, Salem branch, YMCA, 8 p. m.

MAY 6-7—Portland Rhododendron show. Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Center, Harbor Drive.

MAY 13-14—Linn-Benton Flower show, Riverside community hall.

MAY 18—Salem Rose Society meeting, 8 p. m., YMCA.

MAY 19-21—Men's Garden club of Portland Spring Show, Portland auditorium.

JUNE 8-9—Portland Rose show.



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