



Welcome to October. You should be de-budding and gibbing your camellias for show. Some species of camellias are showing multiple buds on the branches and those without will later on. Don't be too excited to see all of those branches with multiple buds. Why you ask? It's time to disbud; if you leave the buds on you are going to have low quality flowers of small sizes. As in the photo, you will want to remove the extra buds and leave only one bud on each branch. The remaining bud will produce a larger bloom because of the less competition as it is feeds from the plant. While you are disbudding, now is a good time to gib. The empty cup of one of the removed buds is where a drop of gib is applied. I gib one to two buds per plant once a week.



You should also in October, make sure your Camellias have adequate mulch covering their root zone. This will help protect them in case of a freeze in the winter. I use whatever I can get: pine straw, oak leaves, etc.

There is no fixed time for the gib to take effect, and many factors will affect the time. Early blooming varieties usually bloom more quickly and late blooming varieties usually take longer; some take much longer. More mature buds will bloom sooner than less mature ones. Reticulatas normally average a longer time to bloom than do japonicas. Plants in full sun may also bloom sooner. Of course, abnormally warm weather will accelerate blooming, while heavy freezes and colder conditions will delay blooming



To apply, select a well-developed flower bud with an upward-facing leaf bud, and remove the leaf bud with a twisting action. Place one drop of acid in the cup left where leaf bud was removed.



- Greg Taylor / President

**2024-2025 Gibbing Schedule for Camellia Shows near Pensacola.**

This schedule is an approximation based upon an average time between the application of the gibberellic acid and blooming of about 6 weeks, bracketed with applications a week earlier or later. Thus, there are three application dates for each show. For example, if you gib 2 blooms on each plant at each application, you would have gibbed a total of 6 blooms on that plant --- and with luck maybe 1 of them will open in time for that show. The estimated time is for an average japonica plant in moderate shade and under normal Pensacola weather conditions.

Location	Show Date	1st Application 8 wks prior	2 <sup>nd</sup> Application 7 wks prior	3 <sup>rd</sup> Application 6 wks prior	4th Application 5 wks prior
Slidell, LA	12/7/24	10/12/24	10/19/24	10/26/24	11/2/24
<b>Pensacola, FL</b>	<b>12/14/24</b>	<b>10/19/24</b>	<b>10/26/24</b>	<b>11/2/24</b>	<b>11/9/24</b>
Gainesville, FL	1/4/25	11/9/24	11/16/24	11/23/24	11/30/24
Covington, LA	1/5/25	11/9/24	11/16/24	11/23/24	11/30/24
Tallahassee, FL	1/11/25	11/16/24	11/23/24	11/30/24	12/7/24
Mobile, AL	1/18/25	11/23/24	11/30/24	12/7/24	12/14/24
Greenville, AL	1/25/25	11/30/24	12/7/24	12/14/24	12/21/24
Gulfport, MS	2/1/25	12/7/24	12/14/24	12/21/24	12/28/24
Baton Rouge, LA	2/8/25	12/14/24	12/21/24	12/25/24	1/4/25
Wiregrass, GA	2/15/25	12/28/24	1/4/25	1/11/25	1/18/25
Fort Valley, GA	2/22/25	1/4/25	1/11/25	1/18/25	2/1/25
Brookhaven, MS	3/1/25	1/11/25	1/18/25	2/1/25	42/8/25

NOTE: Some growers suggest 7 to 5 weeks before a show. The chart I originally found suggested 8 to 6 weeks. This chart gives dates for both rules of thumb.

We will have gib for members at the Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Garden Center along with a demonstration for our newer members.

## What You Missed At The First Meeting.

John Davy came with everything to cover propagation methods at our September meeting. Ellen Milo captured the process in photos; Greg Taylor demonstrated how to remove the air layers well below the tin foil. Inside the tin foil is the layer of 'wrap n seal' and under it a successful air layer with lots of roots. Potting soil was discussed; the best thing to add to your soil is perlite. Perlite is "air for the soil," it circulates air between the roots improving soil structure by providing drainage and aeration. The long stem will add support to hold the plant upright in the pot.



Another propagation method is grafting, the photo shows an example of grafting a plant on to another plant. Hopefully John will bring it back another time so we can see how this turn out. Root cuttings look like a simpler method, the ideal cutting has 3 leaves, slice the butt end of the cutting on an angle, scratch through the cambium to the white pulp, dip in growth solution and stick it in moist soil about one-inch. Label your plants and create a mini greenhouse, place them in a shaded area. In 2 months roots should form and these cutting could be ready for planting in 6 months.



Propagation by seeds was the final method; he brought various sizes of seed pods that needed to be open, and contained multiple seeds for planting. Plant them in good soil, peat moss, combined with sand, and keep the soil damp. Seed can germinate in 1 month.





What a beautiful morning for our 'work day' at UWF Camellia Garden. We greatly appreciated the help of our partner, The UWF Retired Employees Association, pictured below, who not only came out to help but brought coffee and sweet treats for everyone. Their President, Ellen Till came with waste containers and as they were filled and ready to be dumped, took Greg Taylor for a ride to where the facilities collect yard waste. This is a big deal; previously we have been taking the yard waste home in various members' trucks.

We remove all suckers under the camellia trees, large branches, weeds and cleaned the



walk ways while enjoying each other's company as Rita entertained the help. We all love Rita! Pictured below, Kelsey McAferty, Rocco Kugelman, Rita Perling, Clayton McDonald, David McAferty, Pat Stephenson, Greg Taylor, Cindi McDonald, Trumin Brown. Working too hard for a photo was; Jane Benson, Debbie Brown, William Paden, Louise Seitz and the professional weed puller, Melinda Taylor.





**Saturday Oct. 12th** – Sales at the Shade House (3279 Pine Forest, Cantonment, FL) hours 9-3pm. Our neighbor to the north of us, Pine Forest Assembly Church, is having their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts & Crafts Festival that day. We will open the Shade House gate and hope for passersby to stop in to make a camellia purchase. If you can help for a few hours Trumin would appreciate any assistance.

**Tuesday Oct. 15th – General meeting**– Program: Peggy DeArmon presents, ‘Japanese Maples Make Great Companion Plants for Camellias.’ Here is another chance to pick up ‘gib’ if you missed last month. You will need to ‘gib’ 7 weeks prior to our show date (1<sup>st</sup> application Oct 26th) to have your camellias ready to produce blooms for our *December 14<sup>th</sup> show*. Location: [Garden Center](#), 6:30pm for social, 7:00 pm program.



**Friday Oct. 18th & Saturday 19th** – We are excited to host the **Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference**, which promises the perfect blend of learning and leisure with fellow camellia lovers from various Clubs. **Friday at 1:30 there is a Novice Class & Judges Re-accreditation Symposium, taught by Jim Campbell in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Antilles Meeting Room. To register for the class send an email message to Jim at**

[rivercamellia@bellsouth.net](mailto:rivercamellia@bellsouth.net). Next, GCCS Board meeting, then a 5pm Meet and Greet Social followed by dinner and Camellia Plant Auction.

Saturday starts with a GCCS Business meeting for all members, followed by Jane Benson’s presentation on the History of Pensacola Camellias at UWF Camellia Garden, Camellia Plant Auction, Lunch, Tour at Fort Pickens and Ferry Ride, Meet & Greet Happy Hour, Dinner and Keynote Speaker, Randolph Maphis on John Wang’s Contribution to the Camellia World. The price for Saturday is only is \$150.

**Saturday Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> – POTTING OF AIR-LAYERS** will take place at PANHANDLE GROWERS, INC 5507 Southridge Road in Milton (Allentown, FL 32570) starting at 8am or when you get there. Pull into the property, make a right turn and drive to the south toward the grass parking area just west of the soil mix area. Bring pruners, gloves, anything you want to eat or drink, chair and a good attitude!

**Saturday Nov. 9th** – UWF Camellia Garden Work Day starting at 9:00am. We will be gibbing and general cleaning of the garden. Please bring your gloves, gardening tools, knee pads and yard waste bags.