

Camellia Society of Modesto

January/February Newsletter
2017

Message from the President:

Greetings to All,



At the end of this first month of the year we are finalizing all the duties and assignments that need to be completed to successfully produce our camellia show in March. There are many aspects of the show about which the average person would not know or even consider. For example, we need people to move tables during the show to allow for judging and viewing when the public comes in. Lunch needs to be provided in two different areas for specific groups of helpers. Live music needs to be arranged. We need a clean-up crew when the show is over. There are several other areas that need careful attention, one of which is the technical aspect which includes sending the results of the judging to the American Camellia Society in Georgia. Everything considered, a camellia show is a large undertaking involving lots of people. Our show is March 18 & 19 with set-up on the 17th. We hope that many of you will be willing and able to help us in some area of need.

The Northern California Camellia Council (NCCC) will be meeting at John's Incredible Pizza on Saturday, February 4, 2017. There will be a mini show of camellias after which the business meeting will take place. John's opens at 12:00 pm, and we will hope to start the mini show by 12:45, followed by the business meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend, even though you may not be a voting representative of our club.

We were disappointed that the weather caused our speaker to have to cancel his talk on the camellias in the Gallo Gardens last month, but he has been able to reschedule for our next meeting on February 12. It would be wonderful to see you there. I know you will enjoy hearing what he has to say.

Your Camellia Friend,

Marvin

Inside this Issue:

- Camellia Show Schedule
- Camellia Culture
- Valentine's Day Recipe to try!

Northern California Camellia Show Schedule

February 4, 2017

Northern California
Camellia Council Winter
Meeting and Mini Show

Johns Incredible Pizza,
Modesto, CA

February 11-12, 2017

San Francisco Peninsula
Camellia Show

CAB Community Activities
Building

February 18-19, 2017

Northern California
Camellia Society Show

St. Andrews Celebration
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant
Hill, CA

February 25-26, 2017

Camellia Society of Santa
Clara Show

Community Recreation 969
Kiely Blvd. Santa Clara, CA

March 4-5, 2017

Camellia Society of Sacramento
Show

Sacramento Memorial
Auditorium 1515 J Street,
Sacramento, CA

March 18-19, 2017

Camellia Society of Modesto
Show

E & J Gallo Administration
Bldg. 600 Yosemite Blvd.



Follow Camellia Society of Modesto on Instagram for photos of
beautiful camellia blooms! @camelliasocietyofmodesto



Join the Camellia Society of Modesto Group on Facebook!



"Debutante"



"Tama Peacock"

Camellia Culture

How to Care For Camellias: A Basic Guide - By Debbie Odom, International Camellia Society

Many problems occur in our gardens and landscapes with camellias due to improper planning and care. There are basic vital elements for camellias to survive and do well.

Nutrients

Camellias like a balanced diet and constantly available nutrients. Spotty fertilizing here and there and liquid feeding one per year won't usually do the trick. Pick a fertilizer formulated for camellias, create a seasonal fertilizing plan, and stick to it. There are many types of camellia fertilizer on the market today. Always read the package directions. Choosing a fertilizer that is made for camellias and acid loving plants will ensure that you are giving them what's best for them. A liquid feeding once per season is not doing a thing. If you use a liquid, you must use it every 10 days during the growing season for it to be effective. There are some wonderful organic fertilizers on the market today for acid loving plants. Try one out — it's safe for your plants, you and the environment.

Soil pH

Soil pH is the level of acidity or alkalinity in the soil. Camellias prefer a soil pH of 5.8 to 6.5, which is acid soil. PH controls the general overall health of the plant. With an incorrect pH, nutrients may not be drawn up into the plant as needed. A good soil meter is always helpful, but if in doubt about your soil, take a soil sample to your county extension service and have them run an analysis on it. You can correct if necessary once the test comes back.

Oxygen

Camellia need oxygen to breath roots especially. Packing too much soil on top of the root mass when planting can deplete the oxygen supply to the roots and thus result in plant suffocation. It is imperative that proper planting procedures are taken when planting camellias. Mulching the top of the root surface is ok but dirt on top is not.

Water

Water is a vital element in camellia success or failure. Too much your plant could develop root rot, especially if in soil that doesn't drain well. Not enough, and your plant could dehydrate. Severe water issues could result in plant death. Make sure your plant is in an area that is well drained, and that your plant gets adequate water to remain moist, but not wet at all times.

Location

Most camellias prefer a shadier location, but there are many varieties that will do well if you have more sun. Close attention to the above vital elements for camellias planted in sun is necessary, as they will use more water, and more nutrients that ones planted in the shade. Every variety of camellias has its own special needs. If in doubt, ask someone who knows about the variety you are planting. Sometimes a little question can solve a lot of problems down the line.



Red Velvet

HOT COCOA

Ingredients

For the hot chocolate:

- 2 cups (480ml) milk
- 3 tbsp cocoa powder
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 2-3 tbsp sugar, add to taste
- Liquid Red food coloring

For the topping:

- 1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp dark chocolate chips
- Sprinkles to decorate, optional



Instructions

1. Place cocoa powder into a medium sized sauce pan and then pour the milk in gradually while whisking.
2. Turn the heat onto low-medium and continue whisking until you have no lumps of cocoa powder.
3. Add in the vanilla extract, sugar (check sweetness and adjust to taste) and red food coloring, whisking while you add.
4. Bring the mixture to a simmer, whisking occasionally to stop a skin forming. Do not boil.
5. If it's not red enough, add more food coloring, stir and then take off the heat.
6. Divide between two mugs and leave to one side while you make the topping.
7. Place heavy cream, sugar and vanilla into a small bowl and whisk until thick and it holds its shape - this will take about 3 minutes.
8. Top each hot chocolate with the cream mixture, sprinkle chocolate chips and sprinkles (if using) on top and serve.



CRAFT CORNER




Here's a few Valentine's Day D.I.Y craft ideas to do with your children, grandkids, or even your significant other!

Easy Valentine's Crafts for Kids

