

# CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF MODESTO

October 2018



## Meet the President: Kim Bardsley

I am thrilled to be serving as this year's President! David Ellis and Marvin Bort will be serving as our co-Vice Presidents, Shirley Ellis as our Secretary, and Barbara Bort as our Treasurer. Tony Miranda and Cindy Cook will once again lead the Camellia Show Committee.

I'm excited to announce our first meeting of the season on Sunday, October 14th, at 1:30pm. We are meeting at our same location, the Modesto Central Fellowship Hall, at the corner of 16th and G Street downtown Modesto. Our guest speaker will be Don Bergamini, President of the Northern California Camellia Society.

This year we would love to expand our membership base, so everyone bring a friend! We are looking for ways to re-introduce our society to Modesto and the surrounding areas. If you know of ANY opportunities, let me know! Our society's longevity and success is based on our foundation of membership, we need to keep it strong.

Lastly, if there are any areas of interest you would like covered by our guest speakers, please let me know. I am trying to fill this year's calendar with topics that will not only help us become better camellia cultivators, but help us show our blooms, and encourage our general gardening knowledge. So get out your gardening gear and take inventory of your show supplies, our season of camellias is here!

Sincerely,  
Kim Bardsley  
President

2018-2019

Meeting Dates:

November 11, 2018

December 9, 2018

January 13, 2019

February 10, 2019

March 10, 2019

April 14, 2019

## Membership Dues!

Membership dues for the Camellia Society of Modesto are only \$10 for the entire family. Please bring cash or check to the October meeting to take care of your dues. Please note, if you signed up and paid for membership at the 2018 Modesto Camellia Society Show, you are paid for through this year.

Follow Camellia Society of Modesto on Facebook and Instagram!



# Camellia Health Center: Identifying and Preventing Camellia Petal Blight

*Information provided by University of California Integrated Pest Management Website*

Camellia petal blight, also called Ciborinia petal blight, affects all cultivars of *Camellia japonica*. *Camellia sasanqua* is infected less often in California. Infection by the *Ciborinia camelliae* fungus initially causes small, brown, irregularly shaped blotches in petals. Spots enlarge rapidly until the entire flower is brown and dead. Except when wet, blighted petals are dry or leathery but do not crumble when handled. Blossoms drop prematurely to the ground, often as intact flowers. Prominent dark brown veins give infected petals a netted appearance.



Damage resembling that of camellia petal blight is also caused by Botrytis blight, frost, old age (overmature blossoms), and injury due to chemicals, rough handling, or wind. Symptoms that distinguish camellia petal blight from these other causes include petal veins darker than the surrounding tissue, infections beginning near the central part of the flower (not appearing first near petal margins), and symptoms that occur only on petals.



Prevention is the best control. Remove the top layer of potting soil when new plants are purchased and replace it with pathogen-free soil. Plant camellias in a well-ventilated location and avoid overhead irrigation. Pull off infected flowers as they appear and collect fallen blossoms and dispose of them in a covered location away from camellias.

Do not add camellia petals or leaves to mulch that will be used around camellia, even if it has been composted. It is difficult to expose camellia debris to the 140°F required to kill all of the *Ciborinia* propagules by composting.

Each year, when blossoms are no longer present, apply a fresh layer of pathogen-free organic mulch and maintain a 4-inch layer of organic mulch beneath and somewhat beyond plants to suppress pathogen spore production. Remove fallen petals and other camellia debris before applying fresh mulch, but otherwise avoid moving or disturbing existing mulch where fungi may be present. Keep mulch thin near the trunk or several inches away from the trunk.

Spraying an appropriate fungicide during bloom can help to reduce infections. Depending on the fungicide, reapplication may be needed every 10 to 14 days while conditions remain suitable for the pathogen. Use fungicides only in conjunction with recommended sanitation and cultural practices.

For more information on Camellia Health, please visit the [UCIPM Website](#)

# 2019 Camellia Show Season Schedule

February 2, 2019

*Council Meeting and Mini Show*

February 9-10, 2019

*San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Show*

February 15-19, 2019

*American Camellia Society Convention*

February 23-24, 2019

*Santa Clara Camellia Show*

March 2-3, 2019

*Camellia Society of Sacramento Show*

March 9-10, 2019

*Northern California Camellia Society Show*

March 16-17, 2019

*Camellia Society of Modesto Show*



“Pink Perfection”



“Leslie Ann”



“Professor Sargent”

*Submit photos of your camellias to be featured in the monthly newsletter!*

*Please send to  
camelliasocietyofmodesto@gmail.com*