

GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

1. Prune roses, fruit trees and ornamental shrubbery.
2. Give your garden that new look. Like furniture, shrubbery should occasionally be re-arranged or replaced. This is a good time to transplant all types of shrubbery.
3. The new All American Rose award winner for 1956 is Circus. Many nurserymen have this choice newly available for Christmas gifts.
4. Plant roses, fruit trees, hedging plants and strawberries now.
5. Broadcast hardy flower seed into the garden now and let the winter rains help sprout them.

Fertilizers Help Garden

Throughout the garden now you may want to stimulate further blooming of some plants or assure good winter blooms in the winter annuals or get your soil into good condition for next season's planting. Whatever your plan, you will want to solicit the help of organic fertilizers which applied now will help you accomplish your plan.

Many garden authorities, according to the California Association of Nurserymen, rate nitric humus as one of the best and most inexpensive organic fertilizers to apply now. Organic fertilizers in liquid form are suggested, too, for general garden application, and if manure is to be used steer manure is better than cow because it is higher in nitrogen. Rich in nutrients and other benefits is a combination of steer manure and peat moss; the manure, especially well-rotted, weed free manure, contains all the essential elements while peat moss makes clay soils lighter, turns sandy soils into waterholding

Fall Days Offer Right Time for Camellia Planting in California

Among the fortunes of being a California gardener is the chance to enjoy the beauties of the camellia for this evergreen ornamental shrub favors only a few other sections of the country with its exotic blooms and glossy foliage.

Now in these late fall days the red, pink, white and combinations of these colors as well as the many blossom forms that characterize the commonly known species of the camellia—the Japonica.

One of the finest late fall camellias is the Alba plena, pure white and perfectly formed, considered by many to be the best white variety of the C. Japonica. The California Association of Nurserymen also recommends as an excellent fall camellia a high hat, a beautiful pink, pale in hue, a sport of dalkigura and an excellent corsage flower.

Long-Lasting Blooms
 Rosy red is Prince Eugene Napoleon (also known as Pope Plus IX) which bears long-lasting, formal double blooms on its strong plant. Combining bright rose-pink and spotted white dalkigura variegated blooms when no other camellias are out yet. Its bloom form is large and double with small petals clustered in the center.

Other camellias which are opening the camellia season these late fall days include albatross (white), C. M. Hovey (crimson), Covina (rose-pink), donkelaar (rich red with splashes of white) and deboutante (pink). Many of these will continue blooming the entire season while others will be replaced by the mid-season and late-blooming varieties.

Although this ornamental plant grows in so few places in this country—the south and west coast—the plant is most tolerant of soils and climates in those areas. There are, of course, certain basic requirements which if met will reward amateur and collector alike with gorgeous blooms and shining deep green foliage.

Require Acid Soil
 First and most important, camellias require an acid soil. If you garden in an alkaline soil, remedy that situation by making the planting hole over, refilling around and below the

plant with peat moss, oak leaves, rotted manure and topsoil. If water is highly alkaline and sulfur. Perfect drainage is another requirement of this plant; a raised bed of organic material and loam is a good planting medium for camellias if you have a non-draining clay soil.

A mulching of peat or compost is recommended for camellias to keep their roots cool and to supply a continuous source of organic material. Fertilizers with an acid reaction are suggested for food, too, and a regular schedule of watering, set according to your climate and soil, is recommended. In most cases, you'll find that camellias live best in filtered shade—away from the hot sun.

Follow these "musts" of camellia culture and you'll be amply rewarded with the luxuriant blooms and foliage peculiar to the camellia.

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