



# Camellia Club of Mobile

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## November 2025

### Monthly Meeting Info

November 9, 2025

Building opens 1:00 p.m.

Potluck prep 1:30 p.m.

Potluck Social 2:00 p.m.

Meeting begins 2:30 p.m.

### Meeting Location

Jon Archer Agricultural Center

1070 Schillinger Rd. N

Mobile, AL 36608

**See you Novemer 9th!**



**Blooms:** Please bring your blooms to our meeting for show and tell.



## 🎃 October Meeting Highlights 🎃

Our October meeting was hosted in true seasonal style — Debbie's Halloween decorations absolutely stole the show (as usual 😊). During the business portion, we talked through plans for our upcoming Camellia Show, including how we want the format to look and ways to make it smoother for exhibitors and visitors. We also discussed the possibility of changing our regular meeting day going forward. Finally, we outlined plans for the rest of the year and how we'll wrap up the calendar as we head into show season. Lots of good energy — and lots of camellias on the horizon. 🌸



## Gibbing Camellias with Gibberellic Acid: A Quick Guide

“Gibbing” uses gibberellic acid (GA<sub>3</sub>) to coax earlier, larger blooms—especially on *Camellia japonica*. It can advance flowering 4–8 weeks, which is handy for shows or early garden color.

### When & where

- Best on well-formed flower buds (round; not pointed leaf buds) after buds have set.
- Works reliably on *C. japonica*; *C. sasanqua* responds less.
- Ideal window: roughly 6–8 weeks before you want bloom (temperature affects timing).

### How (simple method)

- Disbud to one strong bud on a spur (optional but helps size).
- Mix GA<sub>3</sub> solution ~250–500 ppm.
  - Example: 500 ppm = dissolve 0.5 g GA<sub>3</sub> in a little alcohol (or warm water with a drop of dish soap), then bring to 1 liter with water. Small batch: 50 mg in 100 mL.
- With a dropper, place 1 small drop on the tip/sepals of the chosen bud (some gently peel one outer scale first).
- Do not drench. Mark the treated bud so you can track results.
- Repeat once a week later only if nothing has changed.

### What to expect

- Earlier opening and often larger, looser petals; color may be slightly lighter.
- Some varieties can distort if over-treated—less is more.

### Safety & practicality

- Wear gloves/eye protection; keep away from children/pets.
- Store mixed solution refrigerated and use within a few weeks.
- Check show rules—some shows require you to mark gibbed blooms.

Tip from growers: Pair gibbing with good culture—steady moisture, light feeding, and protection from hard freezes—to get the best, cleanest flowers.

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*Pictured are two 'Pink Perfection' camellia blooms, from my plant, which was grafted from a scion shared by Don and Carolyn Oyler the very first time they helped me graft — so this flower isn't just pretty, it's part of our club's camellia "family tree." Maureen*

### **Cultivar Spotlight: Camellia japonica 'Pink Perfection' (a.k.a. 'Otome')**

Few blooms say "classic camellia" like 'Pink Perfection'—a small-to-medium, formal double with orderly, shell-pink petals that look hand-arranged. The cultivar traces to Japan, where it was recorded in the 1820s as 'Otome' ("maiden"). It entered American nursery catalogs by 1875 (California), and the trade name 'Pink Perfection' quickly stuck.

**Why it became a Victorian parlor star:**

In the late 1800s, camellias were the social flowers of winter. Families kept blooming pots in bright parlors and conservatories, and guests “floated” perfect blossoms in shallow bowls on side tables. ‘Pink Perfection’ was ideal for that setting: symmetrical, tidy, and reliably late-season—exactly the look Victorians prized for indoor display and corsages. Its compact, upright habit also made it easy to wheel from porch to parlor without dropping petals, so it earned a reputation as a show-ready house guest long before floral foam and refrigerated cases.

**Garden notes for Mobile area:**

Expect bloom mid to late season (often winter into early spring here). Plants are vigorous and upright-compact, excellent as specimen shrubs or in lightly shaded beds. Like other japonicas, it prefers acidic, well-drained soil, morning sun/bright shade, and mulch to keep roots cool. Prune lightly after flowering if you need to shape.

**Fun to try:**

Revive the Victorian tradition—snip a bloom and float it in a low bowl on your entry table. Few cultivars present as perfectly as ‘Pink Perfection.’



**For additional information regarding  
Camellia Club of Mobile please visit  
our website:**

<http://www.mobilecamellia.org/>

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