



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
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*About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Route 1 Box 24,  
Pass Christian, Mississippi,  
5 February 1962

Mr. Norvell Gillespie,  
Hotel Claremont  
Berkeley-Oakland, Calif.

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

So far, I have had no word from you or any of your associates as to the return of the box and the collection of slide, color film, that I sent you, registered on August 14 1961.

Surely by this time, you have finished with them in any possible uses that arose?

Needless to say, I am glad that you did not risk shipment during the period when Christmas mail complicated the mails, but I would like some explanation, and the return of the materials all of them, registered, at your earliest convenience.

I hope your vacation was a success and that the publication turned out to your own satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

B. Y. Morrison

m

NORVELL  
GILLESPIE  
& ASSOCIATES

THORNWALL 1-3526

HOTEL CLAREMONT, SUITE B  
BERKELEY-OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

June 12, 1961

Mr. B. Y. Morrison  
Pass Christian Nurseries  
P. O. Box 21  
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Morrison:

I feel as though I know you simply through the good words I used to hear about you from our mutual friend Sydney Mitchell here in Berkeley. And, of course, our mutual friend Dr. Henry T. Skinner is just as proud of the Glenn Dale hybrids as you are!

Recently I was handed an assignment by the Ortho people to produce a book on the subject of Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons. It's to be ready for publication this fall in order to assure distribution in March. Our editorial approach will take a popular vein in an effort to get even more thousands of greenthumbers interested in these fine plants. I'd like to be able to tell the story of the Glenn Dale hybrids, the efforts and purposes behind their hybridization and the present-day success story.

Undoubtedly, accounts of your work have been published -- and I just wondered if it might be possible to look over some of these stories so you wouldn't have to go to the bother of a long letter. I'd also be interested in seeing a list or catalog of varieties available.

Mr. B. Y. Morrison

Page 2.

If it's not too much trouble, I would like your recommendations also on the geographical areas across the U. S. where Glenn Dale hybrids can be grown with great satisfaction, then the border-line areas and finally the areas where it might not be worthwhile to try them.

Any and all aid will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially yours,

*Norvell Gillespie*  
Norvell Gillespie

NG:MV



*Memo from*

NORVELL GILLESPIE

July 13, 1961

Mr. B. Y. Morrison  
Route 1, Box 24  
Pass Christian, Miss.

Dear Mr. Morrison:

I haven't had a chance to acknowledge your kind letter of June 19th until now---thanks to a travel schedule which lasted almost three weeks!

I don't know whether I mentioned in my first note that I knew Cora Brandt and Sydney Mitchel and that's how come I really came across your trail many years ago.

One of our girls is going over to the U.C. library--- just a hop, skip and a jump from here---to see if we can dig out U.S.D.A. monograph no. 20.

I haven't talked or written to Don Wyman yet---so I appreciate your note that hybrids can survive in Massachusetts if properly handled.

No word yet from Henry Skinner in Washington---but I do hope that we're going to be able to get a hold of some transparencies so that we can illustrate your hybrids in color. For that matter, I can use some black and whites, too.

Cordially yours,

*Norvell Gillespie*  
Norvell Gillespie

NG:pm

**NORVELL GILLESPIE & ASSOCIATES**

SUITE B — HOTEL CLAREMONT  
BERKELEY - OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA  
THornwall 1-3526

NORVELL  
GILLESPIE  
& ASSOCIATES

THORNWALL 1-3526

HOTEL CLAREMONT  
BERKELEY-OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

July 19, 1961

Mr. B. Y. Morrison  
Route #1, Box 24  
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Anyone that Sydney Mitchell respected, in my humble opinion, certainly belongs in the Hall of Fame class! Not the "character" class!

Thanks for bringing me up to date on the Machinations behind the scenes. By the way, did you know that your Glenn Dales were displayed proudly at the U. S. Exhibit at Holland's Floriade last year? I know -- because I saw them there. To me that's pretty good proof that your "stuff" possesses international significance in the plant world.

Could you take the time to mark up this map to give me your ideas on how far north the Glenn Dales will be hardy. As a matter of fact, if we could indicate where the Southern Indicas stop --- perhaps I can chart this map so that it will prove that the Glenn Dales have definitely increased the northern limits of this class of azaleas.

About the prints: sure, they can be used again -- or if you prefer, send the bill to me and I'll take care of the costs. Whatever will be most convenient to you will satisfy me.

NORVELL  
GILLESPIE  
& ASSOCIATES

THORNWALL 1-3526

HOTEL CLAREMONT  
BERKELEY-OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Mr. B. Y. Morrison

Page Two

I should think 12 slides would give me a reasonable selection. Darn --- I did want to illustrate the habit.

With every good wish.

Cordially yours,

*Norvell Gillespie*  
NW

Norvell Gillespie

NG:MV

NORVELL  
GILLESPIE  
& ASSOCIATES

THORNWALL 1-3526

HOTEL CLAREMONT  
BERKELEY-OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

October 23, 1961

Mr. B. Y. Morrison  
Route 1, Box 24  
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Morrison:

We are terribly sorry that we have not acknowledged the receipt of your slides, however I'm sure you can well imagine the day-and-night work we have put in on these three books in order to have them on the presses by September 30.

The books have now been put to bed and we are happy to report that several of your slides have been used, and also proper acknowledgements have been given you. Your slides will be returned to you soon, except those which we have used in the books. They should be returned to you sometime around the end of November.

Thanks very much for your cooperation, and we hope that you will be pleased with the results.

Best wishes.

Cordially yours,

*Norvell Gillespie*  
Norvell Gillespie *m.c.*

NG:MV

P.S. Mr. Gillespie has just returned from a 3-week vacation -- the first in five years -- which he dearly needed!



NORVELL  
GILLESPIE  
& ASSOCIATES

THORNWALL 1-3526

HOTEL CLAREMONT  
BERKELEY-OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

August 10, 1961

Mr. B. Y. Morrison  
Route 1, Box 24  
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Morrison:

As you know, Ortho has commissioned me to do an exciting new picture guide on growing azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons. The book will be short on copy, long on action, how-to-do-it photos.

We realize that in a small 52-page book it's impossible to do justice to everything, yet on the other hand we feel that this new photo-journalistic approach is bound to win many new converts for these acid-loving plants.

Now here is where we would like your help specifically: could you take the time to quickly sketch on the enclosed map, according to your experience and know-how, the general limits of the growing "belts" of azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons.

You might do just a simple crayon sketch in color for each belt. Somehow when all results are tabulated I think we'll come reasonably close for the first time, to establishing within limits, a general geographic idea of where these plants will succeed and where it is a waste of time.

NORVELL  
GILLESPIE  
& ASSOCIATES

THORNWALL 1-3526

HOTEL CLAREMONT  
BERKELEY-DAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Mr. B. Y. Morrison

Page Two.

All editors seem to be working behind the gun --  
and this one is working true to that tradition!  
Anything you can do to expedite matters will be  
greatly appreciated.

With every good wish.

Cordially yours,

*Norvell Gillespie*  
Norvell Gillespie

NG:MV

Route 1 Box 24,  
Pass Christian, Miss.,  
14 August 1961

Mr. Norvell Gillespie,  
Hotel Claremont,  
Berkeley California.

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

Your letter of August 10 is here to-day. Much as I would like to assist in every conceivable way, nothing in the world would induce me to make a zone map! That is something that would be so full of errors, every one would shout for joy.

It simply cannot be done. Too many micro-climates, too many different parents among the Glenn Dales, too many stupid people who do not know how to grow azaleas and blame the plant, not themselves for the failures.

Clem Bowers stuck his neck out once, and said that anywhere one could grow a Kurume, he could grow a Glenn Dale, but he did not say which Glenn Dale. I have already given you all the outlying areas where I know some Glenn Dales will grow and thrive. I have already told you, I believe, that as they go north, the heights decrease in many cases and the spread increases, so that a plant that is a low mound here is a slow upright bush like a cushion there. Mr. Oliver of Scarsdale, N. Y. thinks Cygnet is a low mound; not here, just a slow upright bush.

One cannot compare them to the "southern indicas" either as they are not equally cold tender. While we do not know their parentages, it can be safely deduced in many cases, from the number of stamens, the degree of evergreenness of the foliage the growth habits and so on.

The one safe generalization seems to be, note that nasty word seems, that the farther inland one goes, the less hardy any evergreen or semi-evergreen azalea is. But no one, to my knowledge could produce any proven figures on this. My one former correspondent in Oswego, Kansas, kept many alive with slat protection, but that is no way to handle azaleas. The St. Louis man had no such precautions and did some that I should have thought doubtful. I am still puzzled by the successes in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The lack of summer heat is what ruins the optimums in Seattle. Miss Brandt thought well of them and there are reported to be some good plants in the Stribling Arboretum, planted for effect.

Frankly I cannot see why any person who wants any plant and does not know in advance its behavior in his own area, does not do what I do, buy it and find out. I am not rich, believe me, but I have had to do it that way, and I certainly do not feel abused. I know others who use the same system. And as for the usual zone maps.... pfui! They give a northern limit and there are just as terrific southern limits too.

Gillespie - 2 August 14 1961

Waste of Time. This is simple. Hot winds, cold winds in winter, alkaline soil, lack of accessible humus. Temperatures below zero for extended periods, if without snow cover. Any area where there are occasional late frosts, intermittently in spring, after general growth starts are out also. All this for evergreen or semi-evergreen azaleas only. I do not know anything about limits on camellias. The one limiting factor as one goes north, is time of flowering. Those listed for December are useless outside in D. C. I had alba plena for years, good plant, many buds, all killed, each year.

Rhododendrons are not used here. I have chapmanni and it is thriving. The only other species I have had was Keiskei, and it lingered about five years and died. It was not well located. I know of some maximum in one garden, poor things, and one supposedly "roseum elegans" in Long Beach, not far from here, but that is all. Said to be dying now, after some years.

Deciduous azaleas of the species molle, and japonicum; molle from Hongkong seed, died in three years; japonicum is still alive and seems to be catching on, but I shall believe it when it blooms! For our sandy soil, the location and the mulch do the deciding. You have no idea what a killing reflected heat we can have from "soil" as such.

Pictures. I have finally gone through Anderson's collection of slides and slides for a botanical documentation as we cannot get prints decently made here. You can tell if you want any or which ones. I have made notations of the difficulties in getting them all at the same scale, for size. The colors are good. I'll not say 100% perfect, as no color film is that good. Needless to say, he would like as large a fee for the use of each one as is possible, and the slides back in time. I have chosen a range of types and patterns but have only a few of the smaller sizes, Geisha, Refrain, Paradise, Polar Sea is the largest, up to 5 inches in good cases, which means mild weather, food and water. Here, food in particular.

Sorry not to oblige in every way, but zone maps, never, for my data. I feel for you, with your people breathing "down your neck" but dear man, I have a whole series of them breathing down mine!! And I grow slower and slower, as I grow older and older.

All best wishes, for success and if the color is of no use to you, do not hesitate to say NO!

Sincerely,

B. Y. Morrison

m: attachments for slide data.

Slides showing plantings here. (4)

1. Vista looking north April 1956
2. Vista looking south April 1, 1958
3. Vista looking south March 26 1960
4. Vista looking south April 1960

The grass path is fifteen feet across, the beds the same, with camellias every ten feet in the outer edges, and oriental magnolias between most of them.

The frost edges of beds have verbenas, lycoris of all available kinds, habranthus mostly (~~habranthus~~ robustus), Leucojum, mostly Gravetye Giant, and other such. Narcissus are on the outside of the west vista.

Sorry we have nothing of 1961 as growth last year was outstanding and the oldest plants are now over fifteen feet tall.

Annuals are not much used, no time, but torenia self sows and is fine and late summer into autumn if we cut off the first crop of blooms.

The April 1956 picture shows an edging of blue pansies, as the garden was on the local tour that year, and as we can have a frost even in March, pansies were "insurance."

All pictures by Ivan N. Anderson.

B. Y. Morrison  
Rt. 1 Box 24  
Pass Christian, Miss.

From "Back Acres" 4

Vista North Apr. 1956

Vista south Apr 1 1958

Vista south March 1960

Vista south Apr 1960

Glenn Dale Azaleas (25 films)

- Antique Apr. 18, 1960  
Boldface March 1961  
Delos April 18 1958  
Crinoline April 1959  
Driven Snow, no date, 000-32.36 This is an early sort.  
Geisha April 1958  
Glacier, no date, midseason, single head only.  
Helen Fox, no date.--- 000 32.36 a little later than the earliest  
Killarney April 19 1958 typical of the light flakes.  
Martha Hitchcock no date, anscochrome, Pavella co.  
This is below the proper size. The flowers are about  
three and one half inches across.  
Moonbeam April 24 1958  
Nobility April 19 1958  
Paradise April 25, 1956, typical of the hose in hose series  
of which Fashion has been the most  
publicized.  
Polar Sea, no date, 000.32.36 Technicolor  
Puck, no date, Extachrome, processed by Technicolor  
Refrain, Feb 13 1957 This is the only hose in hose I like.  
Rhapsody, no date Technicolor, usually mid April.  
This is the sort that matches Pride of  
Mobile and is hardy north.  
Sarabande no date, 000 32.36 anscochrome, processed Fox Co.  
Talisman Jan 31 1957  
Teresa April 19 1958  
Trophy no date 000.32.36 anscochrome Proc. Fox co.  
Trophy (bush) no date ditto, ditto. This usually in flower  
about mid-April  
Trouper April 1960 (April 19 1960) really a pure Kurume!  
Sentinel and Wanderer April 18, 1960 Wanderer is the lower  
darker flower.  
Vespers no date, anscochrome, processed by Fox co.  
This is a fine large white, rather on the early side,  
the lavender stripe occurs in only a few flowers and  
many years no striped appear on most plants.

All pictures by Ivan N. Anderson

I am sorry, we had to learn as we went along, and did not  
get all pictures

at the same scale.

If you get hold of Lee's book, the dimensions are all given.  
Since there is no way here to get you decent prints, I am  
sending these, more than you asked for, so you can make a  
choice.

Antigua Apr 18, 60  
 Boldface Mar. 60  
 Diles Apr 18 58  
 Crinoline Apr 59  
 Divine Snow no date 000 32.36  
 Geisha Apr 58  
 Glacier no date - single head  
 Idelm Fox no date - 000 32.36  
 Kilkenny Apr 19, 58 -  
 Martha Hitchcock no date - anisochrome - Parille Col  
 Morobian Apr 24 58  
 Nobility Apr 19, 58  
 Paradise Apr 25-60 - herb  
 Polar Sea no date - 000. 32.36 anisochrome  
 Puck - no date - Ektachrome - processed by Technicolor  
 Refrain - Feb 13, 1957  
 Rhapsody - no date - Technicolor  
 Sarabande - no date - 000 32.36 anisochrome, Processed by Fox Co  
 Falisman - Jan 31, 1957  
 Teresa - Apr 19, 58  
 Trophy - no date - 000, 32.36 anisochrome, Proc. Fox Co  
 Trophy - " ~~000~~ " " Proc. Fox Co  
 (Ansh)  
 Tomper - Apr. 60 (4/1960)  
 Gustav Wandering - Apr 18, 1960  
 Verpers - no date anisochrome - processed by Fox Co.