



Autumn Glory

*C. Sasanqua and Other
Fall-Blooming Hybrids*

The Lure of Fall-Blooming Camellias

- Bring color to garden at the bleakest time of the year (October through February)
- Deep green, glossy evergreen foliage
- Cold hardiness
- Versatile -- make excellent hedges and screens
- Scent!



C. sasanqua
"Apple Blossom"

What is *c. sasanqua*?

- Name comes from Japanese word *sazanka* meaning “plum-flowered tea”
- Japanese do not consider it a true camellia (*tsubaki*)
- First identified as variant of *c. oleifera*, later classified as species by Linnaeus student K.P. Thunberg in 1784
- Third camellia species to be recognized after *c. japonica* and *c. sinensis* (tea camellia)



C. Sasanqua Found in ...

Kyushu and Shikoku islands of Japan



***C. Sasanqua* Also Found in ...**

Ryukyu Islands of Japan

History of *c. sasanqua*

- Earliest cultivars date to Edo period in Japan (early 17th century)
- Mostly grown for oil used in lighting, cooking and cosmetics
- Remained an enigma to many fanciers in Europe until second half of 19th century
- First plants exported in 1869 by Dutch traders for cultivation in France; British gardeners began growing a decade later

***C. sasanqua* bloom characteristics**

- Single form with some anemone and peony forms and a few formal doubles
- Typically pinks and whites with light pink margins; deep reds unusual
- Prominent golden yellow anthers

C. sasanqua
'Navajo'



Cultivation

- More sun tolerant than other camellias such as *c. japonica*
- Once established, tolerates wetter or drier soils than other camellias
- Can thrive in less acidic environment if well supplemented with non-animal organic matter
- Resistant to ***phytophthora*** (root rot) and makes good rootstock for grafting *c. japonica*



Setsugekka (“Wavy White”)

White

Semi-double



Mine-no-Yuki (“Snow on the Mountain”)

White

Semi-double to loose peony form



Fuji-no-Mine (“Peak of Fuji”)

White

Rose form double



Narumigata

White tinged pink at edges

Single

Fragrant!



Pink Snow

Light pink

Semi-double



Hana-Jiman

White edged pink

Semi-double



Cleopatra

Rose pink

Semi-double



Jean May

Shell pink

Rose form double



Our Linda

Pink

Rose form double



Bonanza

Deep pink

Semi-peony form

*Blooms do not shatter as quickly as other
sasanqua varieties; good for fall shows*



Crimson King

**Crimson red
Single**



Yuletide

**Orange red
Single**



More Yuletide!

Other Fall/Winter-Blooming Camellias

- *C. hiemalis*: nomenclature book states “origin unknown” and “evidence that this may not be a separate species but rather a non-reticulata hybrid with japonica and sasanqua parentage”
- *C. vernalis*: Same disclaimer in nomenclature guide



Shishi Gashira (“Lion’s Mane”)

C. hiemalis

Pink

Rose form



Kanjiro

C. Hiemalis

Rose pink

Single form



Showa-no-Sakae

C. Hiemalis

Deep pink

Rose form double



Chansonette

C. Hiemalis

Deep pink

Formal double



Star Above Star

C. vernalis

White shading to lavender

Semi-double



Egao

C. vernalis

Deep rose

Semi-double

Cold-Hardy Hybrids

- Devastating winters of 1977-78 and 1978-79 decimated National Arboretum collection
- One of the few survivor was “Lu Shan Snow,” a white *c. oleifera* from Northern China
- Another less attractive *c. oleifera*, “Plain Jane,” proved even more cold resistant
- When crossed with *c. sasanqua* and *c. hiemalis*, both produced hybrids of great beauty and winter hardiness

Fall-Blooming Hybrids

- Bloom at younger age than other camellias – some the second year from rooted cuttings
- Smaller, glossy dark green leaves
- Blooms do not shatter as less easily as those of *c. sasanqua*
- Varieties include Dr. Ackerman's "Winter" series



Winter's Interlude

C.oleifera 'Plain Jane' x *C. sinensis* Rosea ("Pink Tea")

Bright pink

Anemone form

Lends itself to hedges



Winter's Beauty

***C.japonica* 'Billie McCaskill' x *C.oleifera* 'Plain Jane'**
Shell pink with very light pink petaloids near center
Peony form



Winter's Waterlily

C.oleifera 'Plain Jane' x *C.sasanqua* 'Mine-no-yuki'

White

Anemone to formal double



Winter's Rose

C.oleifera 'Plain Jane' x *C.hiemalis* 'Otome'

Shell pink

Formal double

Small flowers



Winter's Dream

C. hiemalis 'Peach Puff' x *C. oleifera* 'Plain Jane'

Pink

Semi-double



Winter's Fire

'Frost Prince' x *C. vernalis* 'Takarazuka'

Bright reddish-pink

Semi-double



C. sasanqua "Our Linda" at Leslie's house at left (closeup of canine *chihuahuaensis* fertilization unit above)

*What's your favorite
fall-blooming
camellia?*



Japonica or Sasanqua?