



# 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 17<sup>th</sup> century)
- Mostly grown for oil used in lighting, cooking and cosmetics
- Remained an enigma to many fanciers in Europe until second half of 19<sup>th</sup> 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?*