Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens

Camellias

Japonica
and
Sasanqua
The seasons come and go with their varying tributes of bloom, each with its following of enthusiastic admirers; but it would seem that, with the bursting of the first Camellia buds, all people unite in paying homage to this altogether lovely and distinguished flower.

Although native to the eastern coast of Asia, where the simpler types grow wild through the open woodlands, it is from Europe that the first hybrids were imported. We have a wide variety in size, form and color of bloom. There are the exquisite single kinds with their shawny, golden stamens, the informal doubles and the semi-doubles, and many double types of such perfect symmetry as to seem artificial. The color scale runs from purest white through almost every shade of pink and red and an infinite variety of variegations. Flowering begins in October, continues through the winter to the end of April. As a cut flower, the camellia is a worthy rival of the orchid and as a decorative evergreen that may be depended upon for luxuriant foliage throughout the year, it is unsurpassed.

Camellias are easy to grow. Select a location in semi-shade, preferably protected from the afternoon sun, and prepare a well-drained soil, using one-third peat moss, one-third well-rotted screened leafmold (free from alkali) and one-third good sandy loam, when planting, as they like an acid soil condition. Fertilize with cottonseed meal in April, June and August, working it in lightly as the roots are close to the surface. It will be to your advantage to consult us freely on their culture.

PRICES, according to size and variety:

In 1-gallon containers ...............$ .75 to $ 2.50 each
In 7, 8 and 9 inch pots ............. 1.50 to 3.50 each
Larger plants (balled and tubbed) 3.50 to 10.00 each
Large specimen plants ...........$12.50, 17.50, 25.00 and up

New and rare varieties range from 33-1/3% to 50% higher than the above; we have only limited stocks of some of these novelties to offer this season, but we have not all of them in all the sizes above mentioned.
**ALBA PLENA:**
True type and justly rated the best of all white sorts; with snow-white chiffon-like flowers to 4“ in diameter, of incredible symmetry. The blooms of this Camellia have, in years past, retailed as high as $12.00 per dozen. A good grower and free bloomer; of bushy, spreading habit. Foliage a lighter green than most kinds. Dec.-Mar.

**ALBA PLENA FIMBRIATA:**
Rare. Blooms like the above in every respect except the petals are gracefully imbricated and fringed on the edges. Not quite so vigorous a grower, but a more exquisite flower would be hard to image. Jan.-Mar.

**AMABILIS:**
Rare. A tall grower, bearing in profusion wide open single flowers of good size. The stamens flare, displaying the showy golden anthers to great effect. A rapid grower with the best of foliage. One of the choicest. Jan.-Mar.

**CAPRICE:**
A double creamy white, with high center and gardenia-like texture, from 4 to 5 in. in diameter. The name is derived from its habit of sending its stamens out irregularly throughout the petals. This bushy type with its heavy dark green foliage is distinct and charming. Dec.-Mar.

**MATHOTTIANA:**
Large, full, symmetrical, double, with heavy wax-like petals, occasionally tinged with red. A late bloomer, of sturdy spreading habit. Mar.-May.

**NOBILISSIMA:**

**PURITY:**
One of the loveliest. Pure white and perfectly symmetrical in shape. Flowers unusually large and beautiful, borne in great abundance. Tall, rapid grower. No good collection is complete without at least one of these. Jan.-Apr.

**THE SWAN:**
This rather prostrate type bears its semi-double flowers with great profusion and is entirely different from any other Camellia we know. It lends itself charmingly to use in pots, tubs or hanging baskets; is extremely bushy and grows to 4 ft. Jan.-Mar.

**SNOW MAIDEN:**
BELLE ROMANA:
The most distinctively Japanese of all Camellias. Large, full double flowers to 4 in. across of a rose-pink crepey texture, overlaid with fine streaks of a darker color. Scarce and very unusual. Jan.-Mar.

CHANDLERII ELEGANS:
An enormous peony-flowered variety to 6 in. across. The center is a tightly curled ball of overlapped petaloids edged with a broad double frill of larger petals. Soft rose with irregular white variegations. Bushy, vigorous and a very free bloomer. A superb variety and striking when used espalier on walls and trellises. Dec.-Mar.

DAI KAGURA:
Bright rose red splotched with white. A large, full double Camellia with center petals reduced in size, and often twisted and curled. Almost as large as Chandlerii which it resembles, but more brilliant. Possesses strikingly beautiful foliage and is one of the first to bloom in the early Fall. Oct.-Feb.

DONKLAERI:
Rare. Large petaled, double and one of the freest bloomers. Deep cherry-red marbled with pure white. Petals stand erect and open at the center to show a mass of deep gold anthers. Intense, unfading color. Makes a very compact shrub. One of the very finest. Jan.-Mar.

EMPEREUR DE RUSSE:
A double rose-red of heroic size, to 6\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. in diameter. The center petals are splotched with white and often so ruffled and curled as to give the impression of their being several distinct centers. Very bushy with huge dark green foliage. Jan.-Mar.

FANNY BOLIS:
Rare and unusual. An extremely large semi-double in soft rose-red blotched with white. Inner petals are smaller and curled about the showy mass of golden anthered stamens at the center. A tall upright grower and one of the largest flowered of all the Camellias. Jan.-Mar.

HIKARI GENGI:
Known as the fragrant Camellia. A large fluffy double in light pink margined in white and streaked with a deeper pink. Golden stamens show when the flower is fully open. Blooms heavily and a vigorous grower. Jan.-Mar.

MATSUKASA:
Large, showy semi-double with loose, rather narrow petals and yellow stamens. Deep rose splotched with broad white radial streaks. Rare and scarce. Jan.-Mar.

PANACHE:
A large, slightly flattened double flower in softest pink with lighter variegations. Has the finest and most abundant foliage of all Camellias. Spreading habit of growth. Blooms over a long period from Dec. to Apr.
PIERETTE:

QUEEN OF HEARTS:
The informal semi-double flowers of this bewitching Camellia are, for the greater part, white streaked with a soft rose pink, but an occasional flower or group of flowers will be entirely pink, making the plant particularly attractive and desirable. A quick grower, of open, upright habit. Jan.-Mar.

QUEEN VICTORIA:

ADRIAN LEBRUN:
Extremely double, symmetrical, deep rose. Flower has much greater depth in proportion to size than most "perfect" Camellia sorts. Foliage rounded, glossy; growth vigorous. Jan.-Mar.

CANDIDA ELEGANTISSIMA:

CHIFFON:
The name suggests the clear, transparent texture of this truly lovely semi-double. Clear pink without shading or markings of any sort. Blooms freely and is of open vigorous growth. Jan.-Mar.

FRANCINE:
A huge, clear rose pink of the peony type, like a nosegay with a lace frill. Identical with Chandlerii elegans in foliage and flowers but without variegations. Dec.-Mar.

JOHN LAING:

KUMASAKA:
A large, fluffy double of glowing pink. The center petals are curled and twisted to reveal a mass of golden stamens. An erect and vigorous grower and heavy bloomer. Rarely beautiful and one of the most sought after of all Camellias. Jan.-Mar.

LADY CAMPBELL:
PERUCHINI:

PINK LADY:

PINK PERFECTION:
This old favorite still ranks as one of the most desirable. The medium sized flowers are a shell pink, exquisite in their symmetry and delicate texture. Freest blooming of all and makes a magnificent specimen. Blooms intermittently from Oct. to Mar.

VALVAREDA:
Many Camellia growers contend that this is the finest of all Camellias. Cup shaped, of perfect symmetry, with pale pink center petals shading to a deeper rose on the outer petals. A strong grower, well branched and with the finest foliage imaginable. Jan.-Mar.

ALOHA:
A full peony type, in a dark salmon-rose. Very large and one of the most magnificent Camellias we propagate. Its lustrous, broad foliage is surpassed by none. Oct.-Feb.

AUGUST DEL FOSSE:
Flowers peony shaped to 4 in. across. A glowing brick red which is a rare color in Camellias. Abundant bloomer and of vigorous close branched growth. Jan.-Mar.

BELLE JEANETTE:

BUSH GARDEN RED:

CHEERFUL:

COLONEL FIREY:
New and rare. This huge Camellia, the dark red of a Hadley rose, seems almost artificial in its exquisite symmetry. Is from 4 to 5 in. in diameter, rather flat in form and one of the freest flowering and most admired of all Camellias. A true aristocrat. Jan.-Apr.

COVINA:
An informal double rose-red, of bright and lasting color. Blooms freely over a long period and makes a fine compact bushy specimen. Effective in pots or tubs. It has a charm all its own. Jan.-Apr.
ELENA NOBILE:
Quite unique is this flame-red double Camellia, opening to show a mass of golden stamens. A strong grower and late bloomer, commanding attention because of its unusual shade of red. Mar.-May.

MISSION BELLS:
This type, with its simple, yet sturdy cherry-red bells, appeals particularly to those who appreciate the rare charm of single blooms. The central column of golden stamens form the “tappers.” Good for cutting. Jan.-Mar.

OTOME RED:

PROFESSOR CHARLES S. SARGENT:
New and rare. A truly magnificent Camellia of the full peony type. The entire flower is a dark red ball of incurved petaloids, edged by a frill of broader petals, 4 in. in diameter; free flowering and a sturdy grower. Nothing finer. Jan.-Mar.

RAINY SUN:
A very large loose petaled semi-double. Reminds one of a hibiscus and is almost as large. Deep rose-red. One of the heaviest and most colorful bloomers in the garden. Dec.-Feb.

ROBIN HOOD (Wakanoura):

ROSITA:

ROMANY:
Closely resembling Pink Perfection in form and size. Their rosy-red blossoms are among the first to appear in early Winter. This unfading clean-cut type is very desirable for corsages. Oct.-Feb.

ROSE QUEEN:

TE DEUM:

A limited number of combinations, in varieties, will be ready next season.
If you are an admirer of the artless and ethereal in flowers, we know the group of Camellias known as the Sasanquas will completely win your heart. In direct contrast to the Japonicas, they are entirely lacking in formal symmetry, either of blossom or habit of growth. The majority have single or semi-double flowers and possess the fragrance, as well as the appearance, of the wild rose.

On account of their loose branched, semi-trailing habit of growth, some of them are very charming as a ground covering and most of them are adapted to espalier treatment on trellis, fence or wall. Their cultural requirements are the same as for other Camellias.

APPLE BLOSSOM:

BLANCHETTE:
Is a pure white single, which reminds one of dogwood bloom. Very sturdy and upright with dainty grey-green foliage. Oct.-Jan.

BRIAR ROSE:
Single, of a soft clear pink which resembles the wild rose. Has a small dark green foliage and a flaring habit of growth which makes it admirable for pleaching. Oct.-Jan.

HEBE:

JUDITH:
Larger leaves than other Sasanquas, foliage deep, rich green. Flowers clear pink, trumpet shaped, borne from January to March. A dainty delicate Camellia quite different from any other. Growth stiffly erect.

TANYA:

WHITE DOVES:
Words are inadequate to describe the delicate beauty of this trailing sort with its quantities of feathery, double, snowy flowers. It is lovely when used as a wall or ground cover, but may also be trained on fences or trellises. Oct.-Feb.

From early October through April, the numerous varieties offer a continuous and everchanging pageant of thousands of blooms. You may feel free to come in and enjoy them at any time.