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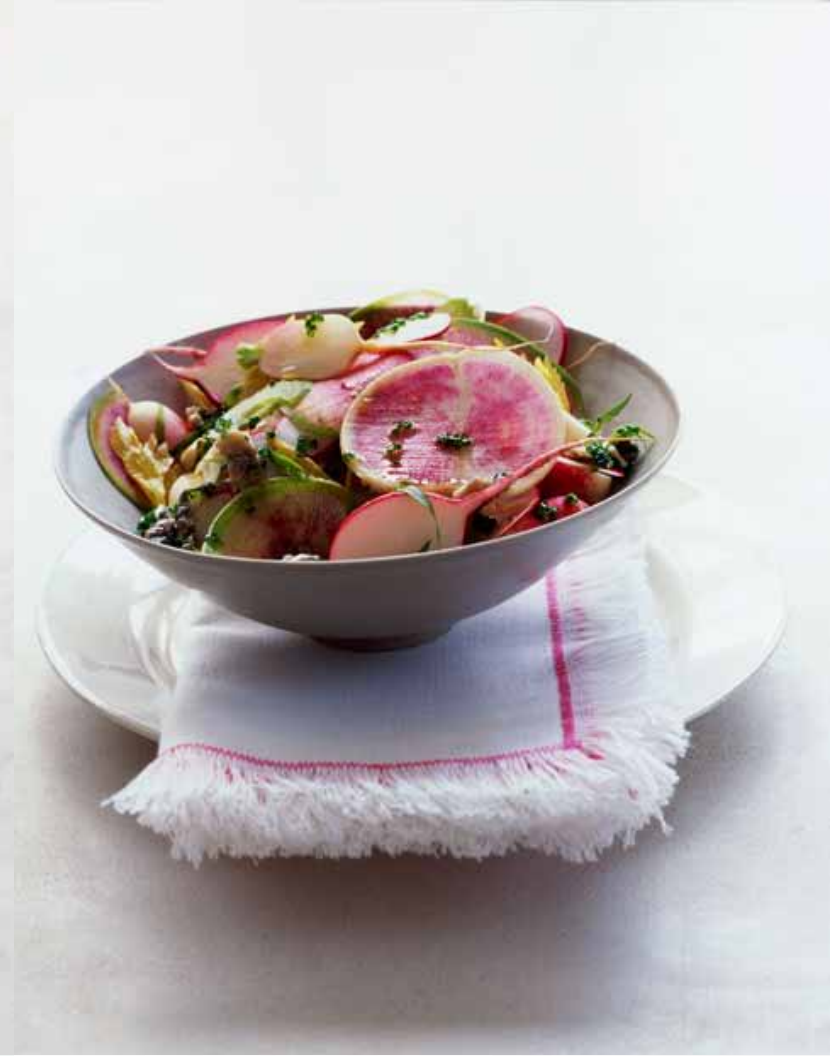
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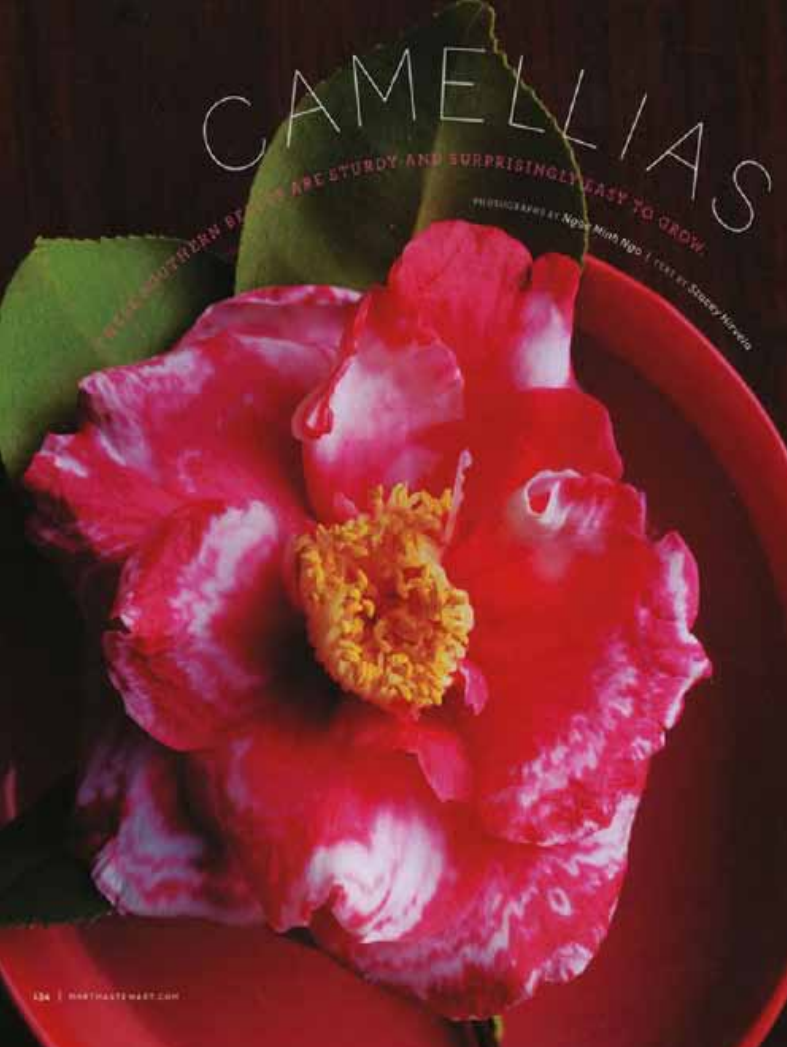












# CAMELLIAS

ARE STURDY AND SURPRISINGLY EASY TO GROW.



## PERFECT

*subtly balanced*  
Camellia flowers are universally admired for their gentle, regal form and their pure colors. Often a delicate, variegated foliage variety with prominent veins and delicate veining, Camellia's white variegation, like 'White de Hollande' is a more recent development, an attractive trait that is often the result of a virus.



## THE LUSH COMBINATION OF CANDY-COLORED FLOWERS AND BUSHED EVERGREEN FOLIAGE GIVES CAMELLIAS AN ELEGANT MYSTIQUE.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS's tragedy *The Lady of the Camellias* tells the story of a love triangle featuring Dumas, Franz Liszt, and the lady in question. Less star-crossed gardeners adore camellias for their symmetrical flowers and clear colors, and marvel at the fact that their exotic blooms open and thrive in the dead of winter. (They were Coco Chanel's favorite flowers.) Historically, the blossoms graced the estates and conservatories of the wealthiest Americans. But over the years, their surprising ease of propagation and universal appeal have emboldened plant breeders and gardeners, resulting in a broader range of colors, habits, and hardiness. New camellias flourish in garden countrywide, as simple to grow as anemone or holly.

The most familiar and iconic of these winter-blooming shrubs are Camellia japonica, Asian natives that arrived in the United States around 1768. Despite their aura of Southern gentility, they were introduced in the chilly Northeast and became a status symbol among those who could afford greenhouses where they could be grown. Decades later these tender plants became popular in the milder South, where they could thrive outdoors in all their abundance and diversity.

In the 1940s and '50s, Henry and Margaret Backus drove all over the South collecting camellia plants and cuttings for the garden at their Greek Revival home in Savannah, Georgia. With its careful documentation and enormous variety, the Backus' garden has become an important resource for recording the history of these plants. As a little boy, Tim, the Backus' son, regularly accompanied his parents on their trips. Today he cares for their camellias. In an effort to identify and preserve the region's forgotten varieties, he has worked with



## CHERISHED

*a living history*  
The Backus' garden in Savannah, Georgia, contains many rare camellia varieties. One variety, 'Newland', was introduced in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Hagood Plantation, which dates from the 1600s. Considered from the left, 'Spring Sunset' resembles an anemone. Mature trees provide the shade that creates ideal growing conditions. On a windy day, Spanish moss hangs onto the camellias, as shown with 'Olimpe'. In Backus' words, the garden has grown up in



## FALL-FLOWERING PLANTS ARE AS HARDY AS THEY ARE GO-BIG-GONE, CREATING COLOR IN THE FADING GARDEN.

- 1. 'LU BRAN BUSH'**  
This is the variety William Anderson used to breed color for hybrids. It has a pale, white bloom.
- 2. 'WINTER'S ENTICED'**  
The flowers are small but fully double.
- 3. 'WINTER'S STAR'**  
The large flowers are early-blooming. It has a pale, white bloom.
- 4. 'WINTER'S SNOWBOWL'**  
Many of these come in single or double forms.
- 5. 'LONG ISLAND FINE'**  
Discovered in the 1800s, it has very dark foliage.
- 6. 'ASTON'S RALPH'**  
The pink and white variety is an unusual variety.
- 7. 'LONDON TOWER BLUE'**  
Large, single-petaled pink flowers on upright stems, upright plants.
- 8. 'SEEKING DAWN'**  
The light, somewhat double flowers are white with pink variegation.
- 9. 'SPARKLING RUBINOFF'**  
This has the double, upright form of a fall-blooming camellia.
- 10. 'ROSE OF SHIRAZ'**  
Blossoms early in the fall with double magenta flowers.
- 11. 'WINTER'S JOY'**  
This shrub has an upright growth habit.
- 12. 'SNOW BERRY'**  
A pink, white variety of the variety form.



## SINGULAR

*antique beauty*  
'Why Monument' originated in Japan and was introduced to England in the 1800s. The petals may vary in color from white to pink, but always display the classic ruffled and doubling that make the shrub so distinctive.



## WINTER-FLOWERING PLANTS ARE SHOWY AND BRILLIANT AND THEY BRING THE PROMISE OF SPRING.

- 1. 'DEEPLY SNEEZFELD'**  
A small, modest variety, its flowers very full, plant to plant.
- 2. 'WINTER'S EMBROIDERED'**  
This variety has a double, upright form.
- 3. 'ALBA FLORE'**  
This variety was one of the first camellias to reach the Western world.
- 4. 'SARASA'**  
Japanese-American nurseryman K. Sawada introduced this variety in the 1920s. It has early fall but also flowers.
- 5. 'WINTER'S GEM'**  
Also called 'Winter Gem', this popular plant is difficult to propagate.
- 6. 'WINTER'S STAR'**  
The flowers may be small but are perfect for mass plantings.
- 7. 'WINTER'S SNOWBOWL'**  
This variety was developed in America in the 1930s.
- 8. 'WINTER'S SNOWBOWL'**  
It has very large flowers in abundance.
- 9. 'ROSE OF SHIRAZ'**  
The double garden pink variety was developed in America in the 1930s.
- 10. 'WINTER'S STAR'**  
It has very large flowers in abundance.
- 11. 'ROSE OF SHIRAZ'**  
The double garden pink variety was developed in America in the 1930s.



## PROTECTED

*safe from cold*  
A French variety, 'Why Monument' was introduced to England in the 1800s. The petals may vary in color from white to pink, but always display the classic ruffled and doubling that make the shrub so distinctive.

## HOW TO LIVE

**CAMELLIAS OF COLOR**  
Visit with Savannah gardener Len Backus and see the camellia collection he parents started, and preview some of our other plant features at our website's content hub.





