

Background

The Genus *Camellia* includes up to 280 documented species, although less than thirty of these are generally cultivated in gardens (reference: *Collected Species of the Genus Camellia, An Illustrated Outline*, Gao Jiyin, Clifford Parks, Du Yuequiang, China, 2005, ISBN 7-5341-2594-4). The most common species found in gardens more broadly include:

- *Camellia sinensis* (tea);
- *Camellia japonica*;
- *Camellia sasanqua*;
- *Camellia reticulata*; and
- *Camellia saluenensis*.

In addition to the *International Camellia Register* and *Collected Species of the Genus Camellia, An Illustrated Outline*, the identification of this collection has benefitted from other references including:

- *What Camellia is That?*, Stirling Macoboy with Roger Mann, 1997, Lansdowne Publishing, ISBN 1-6302-5671-5. Note: any colour plates in this reference book were from photographs taken in the Garden, decades prior to publication.
- *Camellias, The Gardener's Encyclopedia*, Jennifer Trehane, 2007, Timber Press UK, ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-48-8.
- *Camellias of Japan*, Japanese Camellia Society, 2010, ISBN978-4-416-41006-6.

Labels and labelling

A permanent green aluminium label is attached to each featured camellia plant with an issued Code Number (see above) and the name of the cultivar engraved on that label. The Gardens acknowledges the support of Whatley Trophies of Caringbah in developing these labels and maintaining a quality engraving. This labelling system is primarily for the purposes of collection management; in most cases the label will not necessarily be visible to the public particularly as most plantings are in terrains within the Gardens that are not easily accessible or unsafe to access directly. This online tour provides the interested public with the details of the labelled collection of camellias within the Gardens.

Data Recorded in this Register of Collection

<p>Code Number</p>	<p>This number is issued and engraved on each permanent label on camellias in the Gardens. It includes the prefix CGN followed by a four digit number. For example: CGN0001. If plants die, a new Code Number is issued. Very rare specimens are designated 'R'. Camellia Ark specimens are designated 'Ark'</p>
<p>Camellia Name</p>	<p>This includes the botanical and horticultural name for each cultivar in the Gardens. For example: <i>C. japonica</i> 'Fashionata'.</p>
<p>Flower Photo (if available)</p>	<p>Wherever possible a photo of the flower of the cultivar will be provided. The Register's photo collection will be completed over time, with photos from taken either directly from the Gardens or drawn from the digital catalogue of flowers made available to the garden by <i>Camellias Australia</i>. When drawn from this latter source, that source is acknowledged.</p>
<p>Description, Origin and Registration Number (if any)</p>	<p>This data includes a basic description of the characteristics of the flower, as drawn from the <i>International Camellia Register</i>. Information is also provided about the date of naming, its origin, and Registration Number (if any) with the International Camellia Society. If the specimen is a camellia species, the country of origin and year of botanical identification is provided.</p>
<p>Flowering Period</p>	<p>The months when a cultivar is most likely to be in flower are recorded. Note that the flowering period is indicative only, as weather and climatic conditions may result in variations in flowering periods.</p>

Colours of Blooms

Colour is subjective and colours of cultivars can vary according to soil conditions, degree of sun and shade, presence of certain trace elements and other factors. The descriptions in the Register will match that of the photograph provided, while noting some variations.

Sizes of Blooms

In its descriptions, the Register adopts the classification of flower size according to Australian judging standards:

Minatures: 70mm or less

Small: 70mm to 90mm

Medium: 90mm to 110mm

Large: 110mm to 130mm

Very Large: Greater than 130mm

Further, variable weather and environmental conditions can affect the sizes of flowers within their accepted range size. As a general rule, flowers will tend to be larger under moister conditions.

Camellia Classes

The Register classifies camellias into a number of classes, according to international and Australia standards, as follows:

Single: Maximum of eight petals in a single row, with an uninterrupted cluster of stamens.

Semi-Double: Two or more rows of petals, with an uninterrupted cluster of stamens.

Irregular Semi-Double: A semi-double with one or more petaloids interrupting the cluster stamens.

Informal Double: Any number of petals and petaloids, stamens may or may not be visible. Sometimes also described as *rose form double* (with visible stamens as seen in a rose) and *peony informal* (similar to forms seen in peony flowers).

Anemone or Elegans Form: One or more rows of large outer petals lying flat or undulating, the centre a convex mass of intermingled petaloids and stamens.

Formal Double: Any number of petals, regularly disposed, tiered or imbricated, but no visible stamens.

The Register also notes **SPORTS** on a camellia. These are variant blooms on a cultivar which are signs of mutations on the plant. They may be consistent, for example, *C. japonica* 'Jean Lyne' will consistently throw sports of 'Nancy Bird' and *vice versa*. These sports may be propagated by cutting (i.e. cloning of cultivars). Apart from natural or human cross-fertilisation and hybridisation, selection and propagation of sports has been a major source of new camellia cultivars (particularly *C. japonica*).

C. x williamsii are hybrids of *C. saluenensis* pollinated by *C. japonica*. These are named after John Charles Williams, a British horticulturalist who developed them during the 1930s.

The Register also notes any **HIGO** camellias in its collection. These are *C. japonica* singles of great cultural significance to Japan (also known as camellias of the Samurai). A distinguishing feature is their many stamens which are almost completely free and flare out to form a single sunburst. Some **HIGO** cultivars may have over 250 stamens.