




GREAT PLANT PICKS




Camellia japonica Field Evaluation Report 31 March 2004




Jim Senko's Park, Lakewood, WA




Judges: Joe Blue, Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson, Al Dodson, Carolyn Jones, Fran Martoglio, Rick Peterson, Richie Steffen

All plants were given a numerical score from 1 (worst) to five (best). Scores on this report reflect the average of 4 to 7 individual scores.

<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Overall Score	Habit	Foliage	Flower	Disease Resistance	Pest Resistance	Comments	Image
'Berenice Boddy'	3.23	3.84	2.86	3	3.2	3.25	Upright habit; medium green foliage; shell pink, ruffled, double flowers to 3" turn brown on plant before dropping whole; some damage to foliage from sooty mold and weevils. Plant observed was young, about 4' x 2' in size, growing in sun. (AGM) ¹	 © Paul S. Nechols
'Bob Hope'	4.23	4.43	4.58	4.5	3.86	3.75	Upright habit; very glossy medium green foliage; dark red flowers to 3" with dramatic yellow stamens, those that were open hung down. Plant observed was about 5' x 3' in size, growing in full sun. (AGM)	 © Paul S. Nechols
'Bob's Tinsie'	3.85	3.67	4.17	4.4	3.5	3.5	Open, upright habit; small dark green matte foliage; dark "Christmas red" single flowers to 2" that drop whole. Plant observed was about 6.5' x 3' and growing in deep shade. Comments: "Very sweet, cheery but not gaudy," "Very unusual flower form." (AGM)	 © Paul S. Nechols

<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Overall Score	Habit	Foliage	Flower	Disease Resistance	Pest Resistance	Comments	Image
'Black Prince' ²	4.01	4.1	4.17	4.5	3.25	4	Upright, arching habit; medium glossy green foliage; dark red semi-double flowers with white stripe, extremely floriferous. Plant observed was growing in part sun and about 12' x 12'. Comments: "covered with flowers." (Jim Senko says from Feb through July.) "GPP potential."	 © Paul S. Nechols
'Bokuhan Tinsie' ³	4.04	3.5	4.5	4.67	3.75	3.75	Upright, open habit; glossy dark green foliage; single red, cupped flowers with tight clusters of white stamens, flowers drop whole. "Eye catching." Plant observed was growing in partial shade and about 6' x 4'. Comments and scores regarding habit ranged from "sprawly (2)" to "great branching structure—would make a great espalier or small tree (5)."	 © Paul S. Nechols
'Carter's Sunburst'	2.89	2	3.6	2.84	3	3	Lax, droopy habit (weighed down by flowers); soft pink, striped flowers to 4" that drop whole after turning brown on plant. Plant observed was growing in part shade and about 7' x 4'. (AGM)	 © Paul S. Nechols

<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Overall Score	Habit	Foliage	Flower	Disease Resistance	Pest Resistance	Comments	Image
'Commander Mulroy'	3.86	3.34	4.17	4.75	3.5	3.5	Upright, narrow habit; wide, dark green foliage; round "champagne-colored" flowers to 2.5"; Plant observed was young, growing in shade, about 3' x 1.5'. (AGM)	 © Paul S. Nechols
'Grand Prix'							Judges decided it does not have GPP potential. (Leaf miner, seems to hold onto flowers.) AGM	
'Midnight'	3.54	3.5	3.5	4.17	3.25	3.25	Somewhat lax, upright habit; medium green, semi-glossy foliage; blood-red, semi-double, very prolific flowers with yellow stamens. Plant observed was growing in morning sun and about 5' x 4'.	 © Paul S. Nechols
'Nuccio's Gem'	4.27	4.5	4.67	5	3.5	3.67	Upright habit with nice branching structure; dark glossy foliage; pure white double flowers to 2.5". Plant observed was growing in deep shade and about 5' x 2'. Comments: "very white against dark green—striking!" "GPP potential." "Even better than 'Purity'!" (AGM)	 © Paul S. Nechols

Camellia japonica	Overall Score	Habit	Foliage	Flower	Disease Resistance	Pest Resistance	Comments	Image
'Olé Pink' ⁴	3.99	3.6	4	4.84	3.84	3.67	Spreading, lax habit (weighed down by flowers); med green foliage, soft pink, very prolific formal double flowers to 3" that drop whole. Plant observed was growing in almost full sun and was about 4' x 4'. Comments: "Profuse bloom covers plant."	 © Joe Blue/Briggs Nursery
'Purity' ⁵	4.21	4.58	4.43	4.72	3.5	3.8	Upright, spreading habit with "Christmas tree shape"; dark green foliage; white, formal double flowers to 3" that hang slightly, shatter before drooping, somewhat sparse. Attractive dark stems. Plant observed was growing in shade and young, about 5' x 3'. Comments: "Beautiful flower." "Potential GPP."	 © Joe Blue/Briggs Nursery
'Villa de Nantes'	3.03	2.67	3.29	2.58	3.25	3.34	Upright, slightly lax "wild" habit; medium green foliage; heavy, bright red flowers to 4". Plant observed was growing in bright shade and about 3' x 2'. Comments: "more of a collector's plant, not as good for the home gardener," "relatively large frilled flowers on small plant."	 © Paul S. Nechols

Notes:

About the site: The evaluated cultivars reflect a small percentage of Jim Senko's camellia collection. He grows hundreds of camellias in his park, in both sun and shade. Over the years he has added over 5,300 yards of wood chips, 1000 yards of TAGRO, and 550 yards of leaf mold to his 3.1-acre site. All plants grow in the new mixed soil above the existing soil (one to four feet deep).

Scoring: A score of 3.0 was used as the base point for disease resistance and pest resistance in camellias. Thus a score of 3.0 reflects a small amount of "typical" foliage damage from root weevils or sooty mold. Judges awarded a 3.0 unless there was obvious evidence for a higher or lower score.

Photographs: Many thanks to Paul S. Nechols and Joe Blue for providing photographs for this report. Photos are of actual plants evaluated.

¹ Award of Garden Merit, bestowed by the Royal Horticultural Society.

² Cultivar not listed in 2003-2004 RHS Plant Finder.

³ Cultivar not listed in 2003-2004 RHS Plant Finder, same as 'Bokuhan' (AGM)?

⁴ Cultivar not listed in 2003-2004 RHS Plant Finder.

⁵ Cultivar not listed in 2003-2004 RHS Plant Finder.