
Camellia ‘Polar Ice’, ‘Snow Flurry’, ‘Winter's Hope’, ‘Winter's Rose’, ‘Winter's Star’, and ‘Winter's Charm’



The U.S. National Arboretum presents a unique group of cold hardy, fall blooming camellias hybridized specifically for the landscape. Tough enough to thrive in the mid-Atlantic region as far north as USDA Zone 6b, these lovely evergreen shrubs produce showy flowers of pink or white over a period of four to six weeks in late autumn. Petals are shed individually when bloom is completed, eliminating the tiresome task of dead-heading for the gardener. Plant smart and be charmed by one of these exceptional landscape camellias!



‘Polar Ice’



‘Snow Flurry’



‘Winter's Hope’



‘Winter's Rose’



‘Winter's Star’



‘Winter's Charm’

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

U.S. National Arboretum, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, 3501 New York Ave. NE., Washington, DC 20002





'Polar Ice'. "Snow Flurry'. "Winter's Hope'. 'Winter's Rose'. " 'Winter's Star'. "cpf "Winter's Charm'"} { dtkf "eco grkcu

Botanical name:

Camellia 'Polar Ice' (NA 61950; PI 546366) ('Frost Princess' × *C. oleifera*)
Camellia 'Snow Flurry' (NA 61951; PI 546367) (*C. oleifera* × 'Frost Princess')
Camellia 'Winter's Hope' (NA 62302; PI 547260) (*C. oleifera* × 'Frost Princess')
Camellia 'Winter's Rose' (NA 61952; PI 546368) (*C. oleifera* × *C. ×hiemalis* 'Otome')
Camellia 'Winter's Star' (NA 62303; PI 547261) (*C. oleifera* × *C. ×hiemalis* 'Showa-no-sakae')
Camellia 'Winter's Charm' (NA 62301; PI 547259) (*C. sasanqua* 'Takara-wase' × *C. oleifera*)

Family:

Theaceae

Hardiness:

USDA Zones 6b–9

Development:

Following a series of unusually cold winters from the late 1970's to mid 1980's, the camellia collection at the U.S. National Arboretum (Zone 7), primarily mature *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica*, was almost totally destroyed. Plants of *C. oleifera* growing at USNA and Maryland sites showed no winter injury. Dr. William L. Ackerman then made a series of interspecific crosses between *C. oleifera* and *C. sasanqua*, *C. ×hiemalis*, or *C. ×vernalis* selections. Hybrids were distributed for evaluation to cooperators in five eastern states in 1982-1983. The six selections featured here exhibited desirable plant habit, flower quality and cold hardiness, showing little or no winter injury despite temperatures as low as -12°F (-11°C). All six were released in 1991 and have been registered with the American Camellia Society.

Significance:

C. oleifera, a small-flowered, fall flowering Chinese species, was used as the foundation of a successful cold-hardy camellia breeding program. The resulting hybrids combine the plant cold hardiness of *C. oleifera* with the flower form and quality of showier species, and extend the reliability of camellias as long-term landscape plants into Zone 6b in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Culture:

Camellias prefer moist, well-drained, acid soils with high organic matter content. Mulch should be applied and maintained year round. They benefit from light shade in summer and protection from winter wind. Fertilize minimally to prevent leggy, unattractive growth.

Propagation:

Root successfully from cuttings taken in late fall, by the following spring, under mist, with bottom heat, 3000 ppm IBA. Propagating selections on own roots is recommended. If grafted, use cold-hardy understock such as *C. oleifera*.

Landscape use:

Lovely as specimen plants, foundation plantings, or naturalistic plantings at the edge of a woodland.

Availability:

Readily available from mail-order firms and retail and wholesale nurseries.

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