

Camellia hybrida Winter Series (Ackerman Hybrids, Camellia Hybrids)

The Winter Series hybrids are fall-blooming camellias that provide welcome winter interest. They make great landscape plants due to their bright green, glossy, ever-green leaves and showy flowers that come in white and shades of pink. Flower forms, fragrance, size and color vary, depending on the hybrid cross, as does mature size (2- to 12-ft. tall and 2- to 8-ft. wide).

They are slow-growing but many will flower as soon as the second year from root cuttings (the recommended propagation strategy) and produce flowers that do not shatter after being cut (making them good as cut flowers). Mass plant them in the middle of a border, or they make good specimen plants, foundation plantings, or naturalistic plantings at the edge of woodlands. These plants are mildly resistant to damage by deer.

Like most Camellias, plants in the Winter Series



ABOVE: *Camellia* 'Winter's Interlude'. BELOW: *Camellia* 'Polar Ice' United States Botanic Garden



ABOVE: *Camellia* 'Winter's Rose' Flower Kai Yan, Joseph Wong
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need consistently moist, well-drained, acidic soil high in organic matter. Provide a sheltered site because flower and leaf buds may experience damage by cold winter winds. Direct afternoon sun can be too harsh so plant in partial shade (direct sunlight only part of the day, 2 — 6 hours) and be aware that an area too heavily shaded can limit flowering. The size and shape of the plant can be controlled and overall health improved by pruning the branches after flowering.

Camellias are susceptible to viruses and some fungal diseases such as dieback, cankers, flower blight, and root

rot. Watch for scales, aphids, planthoppers, and spider mites. They are especially problematic on stressed plants.

Cultivars / Varieties:

- 'Carolina Moonmist' -- Salmon pink.
- 'Frost Princess' -- Lavender-pink semi-double to anemone-form flower.
- 'Pink Icicle' -- Large peony-form shell-pink flower.

Ackerman hybrids were developed for cold hardiness after a series of cold winters nearly destroyed the collections of *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua* at the U.S. National Arboretum. Because *C. oleifera* showed no injury, Dr. William Ackerman made interspecific crosses between this and *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, or *C. vernalis* selections. The resulting hybrids released in 1991 showed little or no winter injury as far north as USDA Zone 6, making them useful in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 6a to 9b.

- 'Snow Flurry' -- small white anemone-form flower.
- 'Winter's Charm' -- Medium lavender-pink semi-double peony-form flower.
- 'Winter's Cupid' -- Small white semi-double flowers, flush pink at apex.
- 'Winter's Darling' -- Small deep-pink anemone-form flower.
- 'Winter's Dream' -- Medium-pink semi-double flower.
- 'Winter's Fire' -- Medium reddish-pink semi-double flower.
- 'Winter's Hope' -- Medium-white semi-double flowers.
- 'Winter's Interlude' -- Small pink anemone-form flower.
- 'Winter's Joy' -- Medium-pink, semi-double fluted petals.
- 'Winter's Peony' -- Small light-pink peony-to-rose-form double flower.
- 'Winter's Red Rider' -- Small lavender-pink single-form flower.
- 'Winter's Rose' -- Shell-pink formal double flower.
- 'Winter's Snowman' -- Small white semi-double flower.

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For more information on gardening in Brunswick County, please call the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, 910.253.2610.

SOURCES:

[Camellia hybrida Winter Series \(Ackerman Hybrids, Camellia Hybrids, Winter Series Camellias\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](https://www.ncsu.edu/gardening/camellia-hybrids/)