Common Name: Sasanqua Camellia

Scientific Name: *Camellia sasanqua*

Order: Theales

Family: Theaceae

Description
Sasanqua camellia does not shed its leaves during the year, making it an evergreen plant. This makes it an excellent choice for landscapes with aesthetic value in throughout the year. This plant can be described as a broad-leaved shrub that varies in form from upright and dense to low and spreading. Average heights range from 1½-12 feet tall. The leaves have a leathery, almost rubber-like texture and are serrated along the margin. The leaves usually appear dark green, shiny, and are approximately 2 inches long. It produces fragrant flowers that are either single or semi-double, and 2-3 inches in diameter. Sasanqua camellia is similar to *C. japonica*, which is more widely known. It is a proportionally smaller version of *C. japonica*, and is more desirable to some individuals.

Growth Habit
Sasanqua camellia is commonly present as shrubs, but can also take on a tree-like form, making them useful in various landscape settings. Sasanqua camellia blooms between October and March when few other plants exhibit floral color, making them highly desired in the Southeastern United States.

Hardiness Zone(s)
Sasanqua camellia prefers climates found within USDA cold hardiness zones 7-9, but can also survive as far north as zone 6 and zone 10 in the southern portions of Texas and Florida.

Culture
Sasanqua camellia is best suited for locations receiving 4-6 hours of sunlight daily. Morning sun is preferred along with evening shade. Sasanqua camellia also performs well in areas with intermediate shade throughout the day, meaning that patches of sunlight are present along with shade. Locations with full sun make it subject to stress in the form of scorching and freeze injury. It needs well drained soils in order to thrive. If an area in your landscape does not drain well, raised mounds and beds can be used with success. These plants prefer acidic soils (pH below 7). Soils with a pH above 7 can prevent sasanqua camellia from receiving certain micronutrients. If the soil is alkaline (pH above 7), substances such as ground sulfur, iron sulfate, and aluminum sulfate can be used to make the soil more acidic. Fertilizers suited for sasanqua camellia should be applied in the early spring according to recommendations found on the package. Pruning should only be practiced to remove dead or undesirable branches.
**Diseases & Insects**
Sasanqua camellia is subject to many diseases and insects, but can most often be treated or prevented with ease. Dieback and flower blight are both caused by a fungus, and can be detrimental to the health and aesthetic value of sasanqua camellia. This can be prevented by planting in well-drained soil and applying fungicides routinely. Leaf gall is a fungus that affects new growth shoots in the spring, making the new growth appear abnormally thick. Control leaf gall by removing them in the early stages, followed by a chemical application. Tea scale, a destructive insect, can leave leaves with yellow splotches, making them very unattractive. Removing any leaves infested with tea scale can prove effective. Other conditions caused by environmental factors include bud drop, sunscald, and oedema (due to excessive water intake).

**Landscape Value**
Sasanqua camellia is used in a variety of ways in a landscape. Depending on the variety, it can be found in raised beds, along boundaries, and around trees. The primary aesthetic value of the sasanqua camellia is attractive floral color.

**References**