



The Source for Beautiful, Unusual, Exotic, and Native Plants



A World of New (and Old) Camellias



Tricolor Superba

Camellias have been a staple of southern gardens for nearly 2 centuries and it is no wonder why. These large upright growing evergreens require minimal maintenance once well-established in the landscape and can easily outlive the gardeners who plant them. Their large flowers can reach 6" or more across and are born over an extended period with the typical Camellia Japonica season beginning in late December and lasting into May. The number of cultivars are in the thousands and you can find almost any combination of colors and forms to suit your tastes.

While Camellia japonica has long been hybridized for its larger flowers the lowly Sasanqua types have been seemingly marginalized but Bobby Green and [Green Nurseries](#) of Fairhope, Alabama have been working to change all of that. Their new lines of Sasanqua Camellias offer a longer flowering season, consistent habits, great

colors and color combinations, as well as health and vigor. Many of these new Camellias are now part of the [Southern Living Plant Collection](#). These Sasanquas lend themselves to the landscape with a range of mature sizes, increased tolerance for less than perfect soils, as well as the fact that they typically withstand full sun to part sun conditions equally well.

For years, [Shi-Shi Gashira](#) has been the standard for dwarf landscape Sasanquas in the Southeast. From October through December it loads up with rich rose pink, 2-3" wide, semi-double flowers whose petals blanket the ground beneath the plants. Shi-Shi Gashira consistently has a nice tight, low growing habit with dark green foliage, good disease resistance, and excellent reliability making it the perfect landscape plant. So reliable in fact that it was selected as a [Louisiana Super Plant](#) in 2010 and as a [Mississippi Medallion](#) award winner in 2002. On the Green Nurseries' website their description says

that Shi-Shi Gashira is "Still the standard by which all semi-dwarf Camellias are judged. Tough as Chuck Norris, for a bit heavier soils and full sun, where other Camellias cannot venture." It seems as if the goal at Green Nurseries has been to create new Sasanquas and Camellias that have similar or even better characteristics than this gold standard even though there seems little room for improvement and yet they have done just that.



Green's Blues™ — dwarf



Dream™ Quilt

Oh, and if you like Shi-Shi Gashira you are sure to love [Green's Blues™](#). This compact Sasanqua produces perfect form, fully double, 3" wide flowers with strong blue and purple tones. Green's Blues™ was the winner of the

International Ralph Peer Award as the best new Camellia sasanqua for 2008! These should be ready later this year or spring of 2015!.

Extending the flowering season has long been one of their goals and with selections that make up the Dream™ series they seem to have accomplished that. These compact growing Sasanquas flower from October through December and with 'Dream Team' can flower well into February. The flowers are all semi-double, 3" wide, and are white and pink variegated. Of the two that we currently offer '[Dream Quilt](#)' is wider and lower growing whereas

'[Dream Team](#)' is slow to start but will eventually have a dense upright habit.

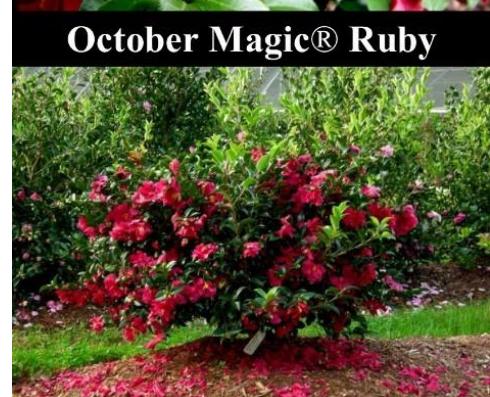
The October Magic series, selected for the Southern Living Plant Collection, seem to run the gauntlet from petite and compact to tall growing types that are useful as screens and as specimen plants. Colors range from rich reds, pinks, white, and variegated forms with double and semi-double flowers. For a compact red consider [October Magic Ruby](#) with its low compact habit similar to Shi-Shi Gashira and fully double, ruby red, peony form

flowers. Like the Dream series it flowers from October to December. If you are looking for a larger growing, vigorous selection look no further than [October Magic Rose](#). Loads of deep coral-pink double flowers are produced over an extended period on this medium sized evergreen beginning in early fall. [October Magic Inspiration](#) is truly an inspiration, producing double to peony form, white flowers that are edged in a deep fuchsia pink on a 6-8'H x 4-5'W plant.

If you are familiar with the ever popular 'Leslie Ann' then you will definitely want to get to know '[Moonshadow](#)'. This Green Nurseries introduction produces 3" wide, double flowers that are edged in a deep rosy-pink. All of this on a vigorous, well-branched plant with an upright habit that is suitable as a specimen or for screening.



We enjoy fragrance at least as much as the next person and well to be honest the majority of Camellias and Sasanquas are lacking. But with much effort over the past few decades the Camellia hybridizers have been working to overcome that as well. We are now finally able to begin offering a truly fragrant Camellia appropriately named '[High Fragrance](#)'. Its strong perfume has been variously described as reminiscent of Jasmine, Sweet Pea, and Rose – we lean toward the latter. High Fragrance produces medium to large, pale to medium pink, peony form flowers with a boss of golden yellow stamens in mid to late season on a vigorous growing Camellia. Vigorous enough that it





Susy Dirr

even lends itself to tree forms! For the 2015 season we are looking to have additional fragrant Camellias available including 'Fragrant Fairies' and 'French Vanilla'.

Here are a few of the other Camellias that we've added this year: Black Magic – very dark, Egao Corkscrew, Edna Campbell Variegated, Gay Baby, La Peppermint, Nuccio's Cameo, Royal Velvet, Susy Dirr, and Tricolor Superba. To see our complete listing of Camellias just [click here](#).



Edna Campbell Variegated

All Camellia and Sasanqua images are courtesy of Bobby Green and Green Nurseries.

2014 Fall Open House – the weekend of September 20th & 21st

We've added over 170 new plants to our offerings for the 2014 season so we'll be sure to have something new for everyone! So clear your calendar as we will be opening our doors to the public for our Fall Open House from 9AM-5PM both days. We'll have a variety of onsite specials so be sure to get here early while supplies are still available.

Raising Butterflies



Monarch Chrysalis

Sometimes it seems like we are on a fantastical African safari as we walk through the nursery and gardens here where we spot Zebras, Tigers, and Giants on a regular basis. Fortunately they are all Swallowtail butterfly species that we find in our gardens this time of year here in Southwest Louisiana. We also have Spicebush, Palamedes, and unusually Eastern Black Swallowtails as well as Sulphurs, Red Spotted Purples, Goatweed, and Buckeye butterflies along with a host of Skippers. Their favorite perennial nectar sources in our garden at the moment, in order of preference are: Porterweed, Abelia, Lantana, Liatris, and Butterfly Bush.



Monarch

It is not uncommon for us to find cuddly caterpillars on our plants in the gardens and nursery and this year has been no exception. We have managed to raise several Eastern Black Swallowtails, Gulf Fritillaries – it seems there may be hundreds by the end of the season, and our latest Monarch crop just 'eclosed' or emerged from their chrysalides. As I have mentioned before Monarchs this time of year are uncommon in our area so we were excited to see the black, white, and yellow striped caterpillars on our Asclepias but finding the wonderfully camouflaged chrysalis is often a little more difficult. The image on the left shows one hanging beneath one of our plant tables. Yesterday it finally emerged as an adult. We wonder to ourselves how far north it will get before it is time to turn around and head back

Eastern Black Swallowtail



south as the migration begins in mid-August. To learn more about their migration, watch it in real time, or to report your sitings visit the [Monarch page](#) at Journey North.

We often raise our caterpillars in a butterfly house similar to what you would see at this [Butterfly School web page](#). The only difference is that we use two 12" embroidery hoops (purple & gold, GO Tigers!) in place of the cardboard cutouts but the cutouts would also provide a supporting platform at the bottom. This is a great and inexpensive way to introduce children to the wonders of metamorphosis. If you don't have containerized plants you can simply add a few stems with fresh leaves, or even just leaves each day to feed them. When we raise them indoors we like to mist the chrysalis every day to every other day due to the lower humidity levels. Once the wings have fully hardened and the adult butterflies begin fluttering around they can be carefully released into the garden.



Eastern Black Swallowtail Caterpillar

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Eastern Black Swallowtail Chrysalis



Have you raised butterflies in your garden this year? We would love to hear about it so send us an [email](#), feel free to include pictures, and with your permission we'll post it on our [Facebook](#) page.

For anyone who has an appreciation for all things butterfly related be sure not to miss the **Haynesville Butterfly Festival** on Saturday, September 13th. We hope to see you there! To learn more about this great event just [click here](#).

If you know anyone else who might enjoy our periodic newsletter feel free to let them know that they can sign up at the following link:
<http://almostedenplants.com/shopping/shopcontent.asp?type=Email>

Thank you & Good Growing,

John, Bonnie, and Jeff McMillian

And the Crew at [Almost Eden](#)

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