
Camellia oleifera ‘Lu Shan Snow’



The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Camellia oleifera* ‘Lu Shan Snow’, an exceptionally hardy, fall blooming camellia that can tolerate temperatures as low as -10°F. Smooth, velvety, cinnamon-brown bark and fragrant white flowers make dramatic statements in the fall and winter garden—uniquely different from *Camellia japonica* cultivars. Grown as a small flowering tree or large shrub, ‘Lu Shan Snow’ will provide many hours of garden pleasure throughout the year.



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





'Lu Shan Snow' tea-oil camellia

Botanical name:	<i>Camellia oleifera</i> Abel 'Lu Shan Snow' (NA 68904; PI 586945)
Family:	Theaceae
Hardiness:	USDA Zones 6-9
Development:	'Lu Shan Snow' was selected from a <i>Camellia oleifera</i> seed lot (PI 162475) obtained from the Lu Shan Botanical Garden, People's Republic of China. The seedling was planted in the camellia collection at the U.S. National Arboretum in 1949, and it successfully withstood the bitterly cold winters of the late 1970s. Dr. William Ackerman recognized the potential of <i>C. oleifera</i> as a genetic source of cold tolerance. He successfully used 'Lu Shan Snow' and an even hardier sibling as parents in breeding a series of cold-hardy camellia hybrids in the 1980s. 'Lu Shan Snow' was named in 1991 and released in 1995.
Significance:	'Lu Shan Snow' exhibits superior cold hardiness, to -10°F, for brief periods. Pure white flowers with a pronounced sweet fragrance appear in October at the ends of branches and may persist through early November if not damaged by heavy frosts. Velvety, cinnamon-colored bark is attractive throughout the year. The original plant at the U.S. National Arboretum may be the largest specimen of <i>Camellia oleifera</i> outside of Asia.
Description:	Height and Width: 23 feet tall and 20 feet wide at 50 years; growth rate of 6-12 inches per year when young, 4-6 inches per year at maturity. Habit: Fine-textured, large evergreen shrub or small tree. Foliage: Glossy, deep forest green leaves approximately 3 inches long and 1.5 inches wide; slightly smaller than leaves of <i>Camellia japonica</i> cultivars. Bark: Smooth, velvety; warm cinnamon-brown in color. Flowers: Single, fragrant, pure white flowers with elongated petals and a prominent crown of yellow stamens in the center of each flower. Flowers open sequentially at tips of branches. Flowers have an informal appearance. Fruit: Shiny green capsule.
Culture:	Prefers acidic, well-drained soil with consistent moisture. Requires partial shade, and flowers best in very light shade such as that provided by mature oaks. Little pruning required. Plant in a location protected from early fall frosts to avoid damage to flowers.
Propagation:	Roots easily from cuttings taken in late spring or early summer from current season's growth, under mist, 3000-8000 ppm IBA, in a mixture of sand and peat, under shade.
Landscape use:	'Lu Shan Snow' is best used where the flowers and outstanding bark can be enjoyed at close range. Forms a large, multi-trunked shrub with age, or can be trained to a single trunk for use as a small tree.
Availability:	Limited availability through wholesale or mail-order sources.

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