



Camellia japonica 'Anacostia'



Botanical Name:

Camellia japonica 'Anacostia'
(NA35667; PI 659061)

Hardiness:

USDA Zones 7-9, possibly into Zone 6b.

Development:

'Anacostia' is a hybrid selected in the 1970s by Sylvester March for its outstanding spring floral display, rich dark green foliage, and cold hardiness. It resulted from a cross between a white-flowered selection of *C. japonica* and *C. japonica* 'Z', a cultivar with reportedly increased cold tolerance.

Significance:

'Anacostia' was selected for its abundant, large, semi-double, medium-pink flowers; dark, glossy, evergreen foliage; rounded growth habit; and increased cold tolerance.

Description:

Height and width: 12 feet high and 7 feet wide in 30 years.

Habit: Evergreen, relatively compact, rounded shrub.

Foliage: Glossy, dark evergreen.

Flowers: Large (up to 4 inches in diameter), medium-bright pink, semi-double.

Propagation:

Semi-hardwood cuttings should be taken in mid- to late summer when the bark is still green but just turning to light brown. Cuttings root readily in 10 weeks under intermittent mist with a quick dip in liquid rooting hormone containing 1000 ppm IBA and 500 ppm NAA, or it can be grafted.

Landscape Use:

Background planting in the shrub border, specimen plant, hedge or screen, mass planted in large areas.

Availability:

For a list of wholesale nurseries propagating this plant, contact Carole Bordelon, U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-1958, Carole.Bordelon@ars.usda.gov