



# Monji Plant Profile

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## Kramer's Supreme Camellia *Camellia japonica Kramer's Supreme* 03-15



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 8-11	Best out of strong sun	Acidic	Moderate to regular watering	Very large full peony-form flowers in deep clear red	8-10 feet

The camellia clan is classified into the tea family, *Theaceae* and closely related to the tea camellia, *C. sinensis*. The genus *Camellia* was named by Carolus Linnaeus who named it for a Moravian Jesuit missionary Georg Kamel, who cultivated an important garden of local medicinal plants on Philippine Island of Luzon in the 17th century. There are about 80 species in the genus and all are native to eastern Asia. Kamel's *C. japonica* was imported into the Philippines it is native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Engelbert Kaempher described the red flowers in gardens of China in 1712, which was verified by Robert Fortune later in 1847. It was not until 1815 that the first imported camellia shrubs bloomed in an England, but they did not become widely cultivated until the end of the century when avid breeding began. *C. japonica* was crossed with two other Chinese species, the highly variable flower color of *C. saluensis*, and potent red of *C. reticulatus*. Earlier flowering was obtained through the Japanese species *C. sasanqua*. Kramers Supreme is a 20th century introduction.