



*Notable camellias, l to r, C. 'High Fragrance', C. 'Fragrant Fairies,'
C. 'Cinnamon Cindy,' 'Nuccio's Bella Rossa' and C. 'Fairy Blush'*

AND YOUR BEST CAMELLIAS ARE . . .

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Evergreen, drought tolerant once established, offering blooms from late fall through early spring, camellias are available in many shapes, sizes and colors. There are even fragrant varieties such as High Fragrance, Fragrant Fairies, and Cinnamon Cindy, pictured above.

Easy to grow outdoors in Zones 7-10, camellias can:

- * spread in front of flower beds
- * define spaces as tall background shrubs
- * form decorative displays on trellises for decks or patios or
- * serve as specimen focal points in landscapes.

Nuccio's Bella Rossa, pictured above, offers an abundance of brilliant crimson flowers with tightly-packed petals radiating from the center. Even when not in bloom, its glossy dark green foliage adds to the quality in any garden.

Camellias grow well in containers also. Fairy Blush, right above, is an excellent choice for a container on a patio or near an entryway. This is a fragrant camellia growing about 4-5' wide and tall.

On the Internet you can find the "Top 10 Animals to Bring Back from Extinction," the "Top 10 People Who Got What They Deserved" and the "Top 10 Battles in History." In popular culture the Top 10 has become a sporting event where there are some agreements, lots of discussion, and, of course, spirited controversy. Bradford King, Editor of the [Camellia Journal](#), has decided to go where angels fear to tread and proclaim the **Top 10 Best Camellias** of this generation. To make the top 10, they must produce very beautiful flowers on a plant that grows well and is generally available to the public. They are:



Countdown to the *Camellia Journal's* Top Ten Camellias of This Generation: #10 C. 'Red Hots' - #9 'Star Above Star' - #8 'Elegans Champagne' - #7 'Margaret Davis' - #6 'Ruta Hagman' - #5 'Spring Daze' - #4 'Lady Laura' - #3 'Mansize' - #2 'Royal Velvet' & 'Royal Velvet Variegated' and #1 'Frank Houser' & 'Frank Houser Variegated'.



Mr. King's list as well as anyone else's will be a subject for discussion amongst camellia enthusiast's as well as others. WHAT IS YOUR 10 BEST LIST?

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