

CAMELLIA 'ANACOSTIA'

Scott Aker



Camellia 'Anacostia' is one of the beautiful spring-blooming camellias introductions to come from the US National Arboretum

YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE WONDERFUL

Ackerman camellias that bloom in late November and early December, but one of the toughest of the camellias introduced by the National Arboretum was bred by former Gardens Unit Leader Skip March, and it blooms in spring.

'Anacostia' is truly one of the nicest *Camellia japonica* cultivars you can grow. It can survive cold weather better than most camellias and has sailed through temperatures as low as -10°F without injury. It is also more compact than most, growing into a rounded dense shrub twelve feet tall and seven feet wide after 30 years without any pruning.

It is the flowers that really make 'Anacostia' a winner. There are often half again as many blooms as there are on other camellia

shrubs, and they are a soft, saturated pink color with darker pink veins and golden stamens. The petals have heavy substance that allows the flowers to persist for many days, even when assaulted by wind and rain.

When it's not in bloom, the glossy, dark green foliage and its compact habit make 'Anacostia' a great accent for a semi-shaded location. Give it a spot with moist, well-drained acidic soil, and it will bloom faithfully every spring. 

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