

Pool, then back up the Avenue to the car park. A gentle walk along paths and tracks, it passes through the National Camellia Collection and the Betteley Collection. All of the collection is labeled.

## Camellia Types

There are numerous types of camellias, all of which are represented at Mount Edgcumbe. The following images are examples of some you may see:

**Type:** Single japonica

**Name:** Hectoniana



**Description:** One row of approx. 6 to 8 petals with a centre show of stamens.

**Type:** Semi-double

**Name:** williamsii

Duchess of Cornwall



**Description:** Two rows of petals with a centre show of stamens.

**Type:** Formal Double japonica

**Name:** Commander Mulroy



**Description:** Multiple rows of petals, no show of stamens.

**Type:** Rose Form

Double japonica

**Name:** Coed



**Description:** Multiple rows of petals with a show of stamens.

**Type:** Anemone

**Name:** williamsii

Jurys Yellow



**Description:** A domed mass with a row of flat outer petals.

**Type:** Peony Form

**Name:** williamsii

Debbie Carnation



**Description:** A domed mass of petals, petaloids and stamens.

## Top Tips

**Soil** - Remember when you are planting your camellias that they prefer an acid soil of between pH 5.5 and 7 and always try to use a natural garden mulch.

**Pruning** - Never prune *reticulata* camellia as they are naturally leggy and open.

**Feeding** - Moderate but regular feeding March-July

**Shade** - too much sun can cause sun scald on leaves of some varieties.

**Frost** - may harm opened flowers but will not harm un-opened buds. The bush after frost will subsequently re-flush with new blooms.

**Pests & Diseases** - Black sooty mould may be seen on leaves, this is due to scale insects on the underside of the leaves. Treat these insects, not the mould. The sooty mould can be washed off with soapy water.

Camellias grown on site here at Mount Edgcumbe are available for sale at Auntie Em's Gatehouse subject to availability

Mount Edgcumbe, Cremyll, Torpoint, Cornwall PL10

1HZ Tel. 01752 822236

[mt.edgcumbe@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:mt.edgcumbe@plymouth.gov.uk)

[www.mountedgcumbe.gov.uk](http://www.mountedgcumbe.gov.uk)

Mount  
Edgcumbe  
Britain's historic park by the sea



On a gentel path...  
Discovering  
Camellias

# Mount Edgcumbe Country Park

A park of outstanding beauty, Mount Edgcumbe has also been the proud recipient of some prestigious awards. In 2003 the park was awarded the National Camellia Society's "Camellia Garden of Excellence" at the National Congress in China. This award is currently held by only a few gardens in the UK.

More recently in 2007, the park received an award from the Royal Horticultural Society during the Britain in Bloom competition for "Best Public Park in Britain".

## History

Camellias are relatives of the tea bush and were discovered in Japan by the Chief Surgeon of the Dutch East India Company, Englebert Kaempfer, during the latter part of the 17th century. He left Japan in 1692 brining with him records in which he described over 30 different varieties of camellia.

The genus was named some 25 years later by Linnaeus, not after Kaempfer, but after a Jesuit priest called George Kamel, who had gone as a missionary to the Philippines and subsequently wrote a book about the shrubs and plants he found growing there. However, the camellia is not mentioned in his book and there seems no evidence that he saw it.

Camellias were first brought to England in the early 18th century when they were always treated as hot-house plants. It took gardeners many years to realize that they could be grown out of doors. By the middle of the 19th century it was the most favoured greenhouse plant, but gradually declined in popularity until its renaissance as a hardy evergreen in the early part of this century. Now there are over 36000 different varieties of cultivation.

## Discovering Camellias

Spring comes early to Mount Edgcumbe lying as it does on the Cornish side of Plymouth Sound. In this favoured and spectacular position camellias start

flowering in late Autumn or even earlier and may continue until late April.

The National Camellia Collection was started here in 1976 with a gift of seventy plants from the National Camellia Society. These were planted in the lower Historic gardens by members of the society from various parts of the world. These gardens lie over the western most outcrop of limestone in England; not quite ideal for camellias!

In the following year one hundred mature camellias were carefully transported from David Trehane's garden at Truro and replanted in the upper Amphitheatre, where most of the collection is now established. A generous gift of Carlyon hybrids

raised by the late Miss Gillian Carlyon of Tregrehan was presented in 1984.

Since then cuttings of many varieties and species have been obtained and we are grateful to the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, the Crown Estate, Windsor Great Park, the National Trust and many private collectors and nurseries for their support.

## The Camellia Trail

The walk is about two miles long and should take around one and a half hours. The trail runs from Barrow car park, behind Mount Edgcumbe House, around the upper Amphitheatre and downhill to Barn

