

Chaenomeles - Growing Guide

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Flowering quince, Japanese quince, Japonica

At Caerhays we have had a Japanese quince, *Chaenomeles japonica*, for over 100 years. It produces large numbers of pinkish-red flowers in March and April which are followed by huge apple-sized fruits, green then yellow, in autumn. People from the village have been making quince jelly and jam from these fruits for generations. Personally I am allergic to the smell of ripe quinces which is quite stomach churning. Even the birds and mammals hardly have a nibble and, personally, I would not dream of touching the jam.

Nevertheless the many varieties of flowering quince which the nursery offers in a spectacular array of different colours do have a worthy place in the garden. Most do set rather smaller fruit than *C. japonica*, even as young plants, but the scale of the smell is containable.



Chaenomeles japonica

Most quinces grow to 5-8ft in height eventually with a larger eventual spread of perhaps double this in a woodland context. The exception with us is *C. speciosa* 'Geisha Girl' which has a more dwarf spreading habit and is only 2½ft or so tall after 25 years. It has attractive double apricot

flowers and one inch quinces. Despite its apparent reputation it has resisted the temptation to become a wall shrub and is actually closer to being a groundcover in a small border.



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Geisha Girl'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Geisha Girl'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Geisha Girl'

'Moerloosei' ('Apple Blossom') – white flowers flushed dark pink



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Moerloosei'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Moerloosei'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Moerloosei'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Nivalis'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Rubra'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Rubra'



Chaenomeles speciosa
'Simonii'

'Crimson and Gold' – crimson petals and golden anthers



Chaenomeles x superba
'Crimson and Gold'



Chaenomeles x superba
'Crimson and Gold'

'Lemon and Lime' – greenish yellow flowers fading to white. A good fruit producer.



Chaenomeles x superba
'Nicoline'



Chaenomeles x superba
'Pink Lady'



Chaenomeles x superba
'Pink Lady'



Chaenomeles cathayensis



Chaenomeles cathayensis



Chaenomeles speciosa



Chaenomeles speciosa



Chaenomeles x superba 'Ernst Finken'



Chaenomeles speciosa 'Umbilicata'



Chaenomeles speciosa 'Umbilicata'



Chaenomeles x superba 'Ernst Finken'

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