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Flowering Quince
(Chaenomeles speciosa)

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Summary:

Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf | Height: 10 feet
Spread: 12 feet | Shape: Upright

Flowering quince is a large fast-growing shrub whose main merit is showy flowers (red, orange, white, pink depending on cultivar) in early spring. Uses of this species include hedge, shrub border, or mass plantings. Plants have thorns and therefore need careful placement.

Plant Needs:

Zone: 4 to 8 | Light: Partial shade to full sun
Moisture: Wet, moist, or dry | Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay
pH Range: 3.7 to 7.0

Functions:

Suggested uses for this plant include border, barrier, hedge, and attracting wildlife.

Planting Notes:

Tolerates wide range of soil conditions except very alkaline soils which cause iron chlorosis.

Care:

Regular pruning is needed to maintain plant size and shape; this also results in better flowering.

Remove approximately 1/3 of the wood, including the oldest branches and any weak growth, at ground level after flowering each spring.

Problems:

Iron chlorosis develops when grown in high pH soils.

Heavy amounts of rainfall and leaf spot causes defoliation (leaf loss).

Flowers can be damaged by late spring frosts.

Plants have thorns and should not be used where children play or any other areas where liability is an issue.

Alternatives:

Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Chaenomeles speciosa*:

`Cameo' has peach-pink double flowers.

`Nivalis' is an upright form with white flowers.

`Texas Scarlet' has profuse, red flowers.

Related species:

Japanese Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*) is a smaller plant (only 3 feet high), and otherwise similar to flowering quince.

Comments:

Quince shrubs are grown for their early spring flowers.

Their thorny stems make them a good plant to use as a barrier to direct traffic.

The apple-like fruit can be used to make jellies.

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