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## THE COVER FLOWER

### C. JAPONICA 'TAMA-NO-URA'

*Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries, Altadena, Calif.*

The camellia cultivar *C. japonica* 'TAMA-NO-URA' blooms in the single form with a very distinct color of red petals trimmed on the edges with white. The stamens are thick and perfectly formed. The plant blooms middle to late in the season. Occasionally the late blooms will have very thin lines or no trimming at all on the petals. The leaves are medium sized, thin and oval shaped. They tend to curl inward slightly in a concave shape. The plant has a vigorous upright growth.

The original tree of 'TAMA-NO-URA' was a chance discovery of a Japanese charcoal dealer in 1947 on Chichiga-Dake Mountain near the town of Tamanoura. The town is located on the small island of Fukue Shima, in Nagasaki Prefecture in Southwestern Japan. When the camellia was discovered the tree was 6 meters tall and had a very dense growth. The tree was growing on a very steep, rocky slope.

After the first public exhibition of 'TAMA-NO-URA' in Nagasaki in February 1973 camellia experts became very interested in it because of its unusual variegation. Because of this variegation interest many camellia hobbyists visited remote Chichiga-Dake mountain and through their thoughtlessness destroyed the original plant of 'TAMA-NO-URA.' By cutting so many scions for their own selfish interests the ages old original tree of 'TAMA-NO-URA' died! When Julius and Bonnie Nuccio visited Japan in May 1977 they saw the cultivar and arranged to import it to the United States. 'TAMA-NO-URA' will be introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in the Fall of 1979.