

2004 RNZIH Awards

RNZIH Plant Raiser's Award

Jim Finlay

The Whangarei Branch of the NZ Camellia Society wishes to nominate Mr J. R. (Jim) Finlay for the RNZIH Plant Raiser's Award. Jim is recognised around the world as a foremost breeder of scented camellias. His search for fragrance has lasted more than thirty years. His first registration was 'Scentuous' (*Camellia japonica* 'Tiffany' x *C. lutchuensis*) in 1981 followed in later years by more than 50 fragrant hybrids, including 'Sweet Emma', 'Scentimental', 'Scentasia', 'Fragrant Lady', 'Prime Fragrance', 'Toni Finlay's Fragrance', 'Jim Finlay's Fragrance', and 'Dame Sylvia' (named for the Governor General, Dame Sylvia Cartwright).

In the 1997 season he set out to breed fragrant varieties with large diameter orange-red flowers, which are particularly valued in the United

States. Jim bred 40 plants using fragrant varieties as pollen donors and crossed them on to 'Chekiangoleosa'. Fourteen of them flowered during the 2002 season of which the following five had fragrant blooms:

'Chekiangoleosa' x 'Scentasia' - 120 mm wide bright red semi-double blooms with positive fragrance.

'Chekiangoleosa' x 'Kramers Supreme' - 100 mm wide bright orange-red single blooms with positive fragrance.

'Chekiangoleosa' x 'Superscent' - 115 mm wide dark peony red blooms with good strong fragrance.

'Chekiangoleosa' x 'Superscent' - 110 mm wide deep pink single blooms with positive fragrance.

'Chekiangoleosa' x 'Scentasia' - 120

mm wide bright red semi-double blooms with positive fragrance.

Jim has very generously donated 65 of his fragrant camellias to the developing Whangarei Russell Road Quarry Gardens as he feels they should remain in the city where they were created.

The Whangarei Branch of the NZ Camellia Society is proud to nominate Jim Finlay for the RNZIH Plant Raiser's Award for his first registered variety, 'Scentuous'.

This citation was adapted by Andrew Maloy from the original nomination by The Whangarei Branch New Zealand Camellia Society Inc., including quotes from the *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* Issue 119, November 1994.