

From: M.H.G. Schroeder  
Sent: 01 October 2021 22:35  
To: Caerhays Enquiries  
Subject: Advice re C. jap. 'Kerguelen' as in Garden Diary

Dear reader at Caerhays Estate of this message

Following the kind suggestion of your staff member Lucy this morning on the phone, may I write you concerning the Caerhays Garden Diary, and especially its entries from 29.05. 2017 and 30.12.2019 about Camellia Jap. 'Kerguelen'. My problem is how to situate these camellias in order to be able to preserve the variegation, and I wonder if you were able to share the experiences with your plant(s)?

I am writing you from Weinheim, Germany, a place in the Rhine Valley 15km north of Heidelberg, and on the same latitude as St Austell. It is a wine-growing region with continental climate, hardiness zone 8a (sort of) -- summers maybe a bit hotter than in the UK, winters a bit colder, and probably less humidity (and precipitation) than at your place. I am gardening on loam which is closer to clay than loam, pH value rather closer to neutral than to acid (so some precautions need to be taken care of when growing camellias etc).

I own 2 plants of C. 'Kerguelen', plants Cam\_I, Cam\_II. Since June they grow as neighbours in a border which I am building up along the length of a 4.5m high yew hedge on the western boundary of the garden. While the hedge runs in S/N direction, this part of the garden is in shade (in its central part) resp. partial shade (the more 'partial' the farther north).

I bought Plant Cam\_I some 3 years ago in a 7.5L pot, and brought it to the central part of the border some 2 years ago. It was in flower at the time of this year's 'Beast from the East Mk.II' -- and survived with white parts of the leaves now a yellowish light brown. On the old place, the brown colour did not change over Spring, and the new foliage lacked whites. In June, I moved the plant to a position further North, with more light, and possibly a bit of sun during afternoons. This brought an almost overnight change of the coloration of the foliage to the state pictured: still visible browning of older leaves, creamwhite-variegation back on new leaves.

I bought Cam\_II last year, as a 4/5year old plant in a 5L pot. I grew it in the shade of the North side of the house until June, and also put it in frost free storage especially during the 'Beast from the East Mk.II'. The plant had plenty of buds (which wanted to flower at the wrong place and at the wrong time: our Spring was awful). New foliage did become variegated. On the new place (some 1.20m to the right/north of Cam\_I), the foliage however developed brown margins and brown parts, as depicted (pic Cam\_II-1 also depicts the light conditions around 5 pm).

Here then my questions:

1) Did your plant(s) of C. 'Kerguelen' experienced a similar change of colour from white-variegated to yellow-brown (variegated) after the 'Beast from the East Mk.II'? did they also develop back to (yellow)white-variegated? in which planting situations? And how about "normal winters"; did you observe a systematic (but possibly then less pronounced) discolouring of the variegation ?

2) I have to confess that I am insecure re the observed "brown margins" on Cam\_II as pictured. Did I not water enough? is this like a sunburn after your first time in the sun (having spent the time in shade only)? or is something systematic connected with the placement of the plant -- in a too sunny position? It would be helpful to know if/when your plants develop similar 'sunburns', especially when placed in partial shade resp sun.

Thanks in advance for all your time and efforts.

Let me also and finally thank you for the web-version of the diary, and the time and effort devoted to keep it up to date.

Best regards

Michael Schroeder











