

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

Camellia Care

Site selection

All camellias prefer afternoon shade, however, some varieties like 'Apple Blossom', 'Chansonette', 'Cotton Candy', 'Mine-No-Yuki', 'Shishigashira', 'William Lanier Hunt', 'Yuletide' and the 'Winter's Series' can tolerate more sun. In general, Sasanqua varieties take more sun than Japonica varieties. Generally speaking, ideal locations are high, filtered shade and protection from winds.

Soil

Camellias appreciate a well-drained, acid soil high in organic matter.

Fertilizer

Using the right fertilizer helps to maintain the appropriate soil acidity for camellias. MicroLife Acidifier fertilizer works great. Alternately, some gardeners apply Cotton Seed Meal and Greensand twice a year with excellent results. Feed camellias on or around April Fool's Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day to keep camellias looking good. When fertilizing, be sure to follow the instructions on the container.

Mulch

Camellias are shallow rooted. Always maintain at least 1-2 inches of mulch to protect your camellia's roots from heat and cold. Pine bark mulch or pine needles are the best mulches for camellias because they provide protection and contribute to soil acidity.

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Water

Camellias are not drought tolerant. They grow best in consistently moist but well-drained soil. Avoid overhead watering if possible. (Soaker irrigation avoids fungal diseases on the leaves).

Pests

Insect and disease problems are best prevented by growing a strong, healthy shrub. This can be achieved by providing excellent drainage, good air movement (don't crowd them) and consistent moisture.

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