

Camellia

(Camellia japonica or C. sasanqua)

These broad-leaved evergreens rank among the most beautiful of garden shrubs. The more common *C. japonica* is a shrub or small tree with 4-inch glossy leaves. It produces large, waxy white, pink, or red flowers in late winter or early spring. The *C. sasanqua* is smaller in all respects, blooming in winter in mild areas.

Soil: Rich, acidic, moist

Light: Partial shade

Zone: 7 - 8

Comments

Camellias are fairly easy to grow. However, camellia buds may freeze in borderline areas. Use a light winter protection in these areas. Pruning is generally not necessary.

There are many varieties of camellias to choose from, including those with single, semi-double, and double flowers that resemble roses or peonies.