

CAMELLIA

Queen of the Southern Garden



When Harry P. Leu gave his gardens to the City of Orlando in 1961, it was said that his *Camellia* assortment contained more than 1,500 individual plants. Today the internationally recognized camellia collection continues to expand and include many historic varieties

and newly discovered species. Thousands of camellias are what make Leu Gardens unique and the array of shapes, colors and sizes provide outstanding color from December through March. Guests are encouraged to visit during this time to enjoy the beautiful Central Florida weather and the Leu's garden.

Camellia sasanqua:



'Alabama Beauty'
Deep Pink



'Cotton Candy'
Pink



'Daydream'
Pink and White



'Fuji-no-mine'
White



'Mine-no-yuki'
White



'Pink Dauphin'
Pink



'Setsugekka'
White



'Cleopatra'
Pink



'Maiden's Blush'
Blush Pink



'Stephanie Golden'
Hot Pink

Camellias – a Primer

There are tens of thousands of registered cultivars of camellias and there are more than 200 different species.

They are all originally native to eastern and southeastern Asia with most native to China. The majority of Leu Gardens' collection consists of cultivars of *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia sasanqua*. Sasanqua camellias bloom earlier than the *C. japonica* types (often from October through December) and most prefer full sun. *Camellia japonica* selections bloom from late December into March and prefer a growing location in partial shade.

The flowers of the camellia are grouped by the style of flower they display. The "Single" type has one row of petals with showy stamens. The "Double" has two or more rows of petals with showy stamens. The showy "Anemone" type have large, flat outer petals with a flower center of twisted petaloids and stamens. The dramatic "Peony," as the name implies, has a mass of raised petals and petaloids like its northern namesake. The "Formal Double" has many rows of petals (often more than 100) usually with a central cone of tightly furled petals. Finally, the "Rose Double" has petals that overlap, same as the informal double, but open to reveal stamens in a concave arrangement.

Camellias at Leu Gardens

Camellia sasanqua

- Small, often simple flowers
- Wider, open type of growth
- Full sun to partial shade
- Bloom October through December
- Nearly all fragrant

Camellia japonica

- Very large flowers
- Upright growth habit
- Prefers partial to full shade
- Bloom late December through March
- Most varieties not fragrant



Single



Double



Anemone



Peony



Formal Double



Rose Double

Camellia japonica:



'Alba Plena'
White
Early Blooming



'Betty Sheffield Supreme'
White with pink edges
Midseason



'Blood of China'
Red
Mid to Late season



'Cameo Pink'
Pink
Midseason



'Carter's Sunburst'
Pale pink with stripes
Early to Late season



'Fashionata'
Pink
Midseason



'Gigantea'
Red marbled white
Midseason



'Magnoliiflora'
Blush pink
Midseason



'Mathotiana'
Crimson
Mid to Late season



'Mrs. D.W. Davis'
Blush pink
Midseason

Planting and Care of Camellias

One of the easiest to grow and often underutilized plants in the southern landscape, camellias can provide homeowners with many years of beautiful flowers. They can be grown as an informal hedge, as a foundation planting or as a regal individual specimen.

Planting and establishing camellias is the first step in growing healthy plants:

- Dig the hole the same depth as the pot and approximately 1½ times as wide. Do not loosen the soil below because it will settle and lower the plant.
- Place plant in hole and position the plant with the top of the root ball slightly above ground level.
- Fill in the space with the removed soil. It is not necessary to amend the soil with compost or other materials.
- Make sure the new plant is watered in thoroughly; removing any possible air pockets.
- Mulch the entire area with pine straw, leaf litter, pine bark or any other environmentally sensitive mulch. Leave at least an inch of space between the trunk and the mulch to discourage pests and diseases.
- New camellias will need periodic watering throughout the first year. In periods of drought, water at least twice a week. After the first year, keep an eye on the plant for signs of drought stress, such as downward curled leaves.

Camellia japonica cultivars need partial shade, particularly in the afternoon. Avoid full sun

Tea Camellia

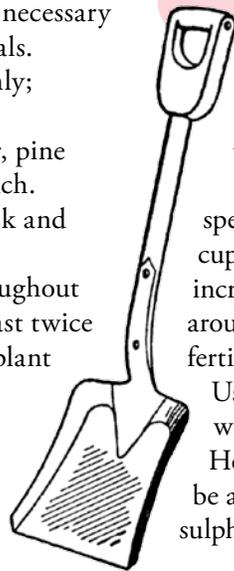
Of special interest is *Camellia sinensis*, also known as the **Tea Camellia**. The young leaves of this camellia are harvested throughout the world and used in making tea. Many types of tea (green, black, white, and oolong) are all produced from the same plant. Each kind of tea is made using different processing methods before drying the leaves.



locations. *Camellia sasanqua* cultivars can tolerate full sun but avoid the blistering afternoon sun on these too.

Fertilize 4-5 times per year with a type of fertilizer specifically created for camellias and azaleas. Use one cup per plant, per application, for small shrubs and increase the amount for larger camellias. Spread equally around the shrub on top of the soil but avoid placing fertilizer close to the trunk. Water well after application.

Using a fertilizer created for camellias and azaleas will usually create the correct soil acidity (6.0 – 6.5). However, if soil tests show the pH is too low, lime can be added to the soil to raise the pH. If the pH is too high, sulphur can be added to lower the pH.



'Daikagura'
Bright pink with white
Early Blooming



'Debutante'
Light pink
Early to Midseason



'Dixie Pink'
Bright Pink
Midseason



'Elegans'
Pink
Early to Midseason



'Lady Clare'
Deep pink
Early to Midseason



'Pink Perfection'
Pink
Early to Late season



'Professor Sargent'
Crimson
Early to Midseason



'R.L. Wheeler'
Rose Pink
Mid to Late season



'Sea Foam'
White
Late season



'White Empress'
White
Early to Midseason

Camellia hybrids:



Camellia xhiemalis
'Bonanza'



Camellia xhiemalis
'Kanjiro'



Camellia xhiemalis
'Shishigashira'



Camellia xhiemalis
'Pink Snow'



Camellia xhiemalis
'Sparkling Beauty'



Camellia xwilliamsii
'Apple Blossom'



Camellia xwilliamsii
'Blue Danube'



Camellia xwilliamsii
'Lavender Prince II'



Camellia xwilliamsii
'Taylor's Perfection'



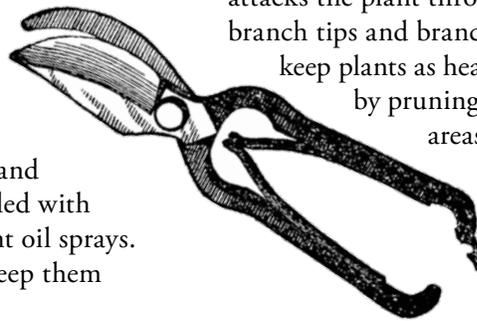
Camellia xvernalis
'Yuletide'

Pests & Disease Control

Camellias are usually trouble free if given proper amounts of water, adequate fertilizer and the correct amount of sun (depending on the type of camellia). If pests do occur, it is often because the plants are getting too little or too much of what they need to grow. Simple adjustments can usually correct the problem. Occasionally, despite best efforts, pest infestations of tea scale, mites, and scale do happen. These pests can be controlled with environmentally sensitive soaps and dormant oil sprays.

The secret to disease free camellias is to keep them

healthy by fertilizing, watering and making sure they are planted in the right location. In Central Florida, the most serious problem with camellias is dieback. This fungus attacks the plant through wounds on the bark, causing branch tips and branches to die. The best prevention is to keep plants as healthy as possible. Remove diseased twigs by pruning several inches below the cankered areas and remove diseased material. Clean tools with Lysol® spray before going on to prune the next camellia — dieback can be transmitted by contaminated pruners.



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