

Camellia sasanqua

- Camellia sasanqua are a really versatile species which will grow equally well in sun or shade. In the sun, give them a thick layer of mulch to prevent the roots drying out in hot weather.
- They flower in late summer & through autumn. Late flowers can be damaged by early frosts however the plants themselves are frost hardy. They may show some discolouration in really cold areas however they will happily grow out of this as the weather warms up.
- When planting your new plants out take care not to pull them by the stem. Tip the pot over and tap gently so no root damage occurs. Make the planting hole twice the size of the root ball, release any circling roots and back fill with Camellia planting mix or good organic soil enriched with plenty of aged compost. If you are planting into clay soil, simply loosen the top layer then place a mound of good soil on top of the ground and plant into that. Cover with mulch to prevent the soil washing away. Raised beds are often the solution in clay soil areas.
- Water your new plant in well, ensuring the top of the root ball is not buried. Water regularly for several weeks to encourage the roots to grow out.
- Camellias like a well drained position in an acid soil - pH of 5.5 to 6.5. If you're unsure of your soil pH bring in a small sample and we can test it for you at no charge.
- Your Camellia sasanqua need to be fed in spring and summer. Feeding at other times of the year can result in the death of a camellia. For young plants and Camellias in pot use slow release fertiliser such as Osmocote. For larger plants in the ground use specific Camellia & alea fertiliser at the recommended rate. "Remember it takes ages for a Camellia to die from starvation but only days for it to die from over-feeding."*
- If you want to have a nice upright Camellia, place a stake in with the plant when you first plant it – ensure it's tall enough to allow for future growth. Tie with a soft tie.
- You can prune lightly if you wish. You can do this at any time of year however they flower on growth made in the spring so if you remove this you won't have as many flowers to enjoy. The ideal time to prune is when flowering has finished in late autumn.
- In summary – Camellia sasanqua are very rewarding and hardy plants. They need the correct soil pH, good drainage, a good layer of mulch & a feed in spring and they will reward you year after year with beautiful blooms and glossy green foliage.

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