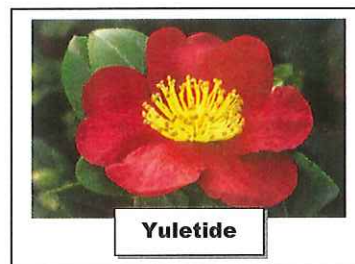


CAMELLIAS

CAMELLIA SASANQUA

Sasanqua camellias are one of the loveliest of Autumn flowers. Graceful in form, tender of color and pleasing fragrance. Open and elegant in habit, the tree or shrub is attractive all year.

The profusion of blooms is usually followed by an equally abundant crop of shiny black seeds, which when pressed, yield camellia or tea oil, a clear, lightly fragrant oil of superlative quality. Good for Japanese or Chinese cooking. Native to Japan.

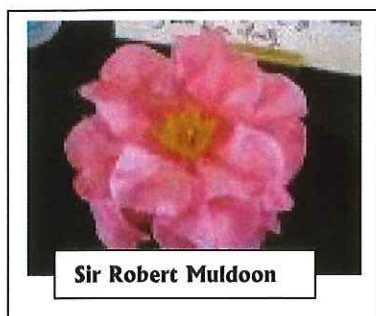
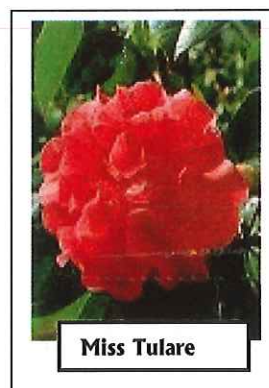


CAMELLIA RETICULATA

Flowers tend to appear late in the season after japonicas have reached their peak and they bring the camellia season to a glorious climax.

Flowers are huge and splendid blooms in every shape from pink to the deepest red.

Their petals are swirled and fluted. Reticulatas are the largest flowers of all camellias. Native to China



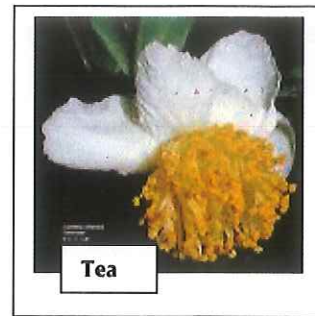
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(650) 591-6845
www.carlmontnursery.com
M-F 8:30-5:30

CAMELLIA SINENSIS

Tea in the west. For this beverage is prepared from the leaf-buds of the glossy evergreen shrub – known in China and Japan as “Cha” .

The tea plant is grown as a dense round shrub to 15 feet tall and wide. 1 ½ inch wide fragrant fall flowers.

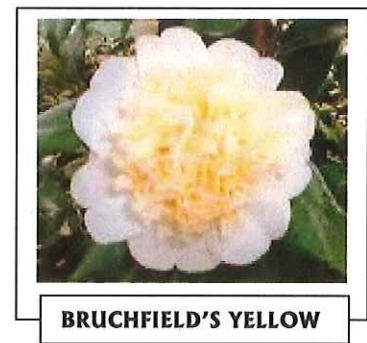
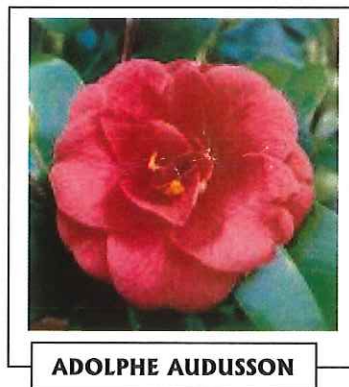
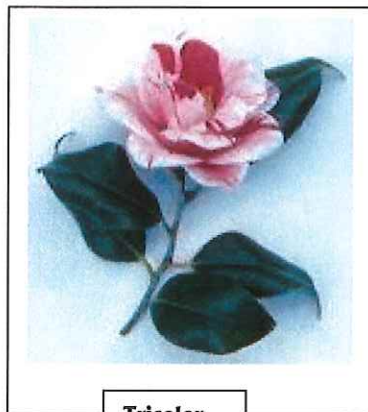
It's leaves were infused in hot water and drunk for perhaps 3,000 years before the west. Native to China.



CAMELLIA JAPONICA

Camellia Japonica is the pre-eminent species of the genus. It epitomizes in itself all the virtues endear the camellia to flower lovers. Shapely habit, beautiful foliage, and wonderful flowers.

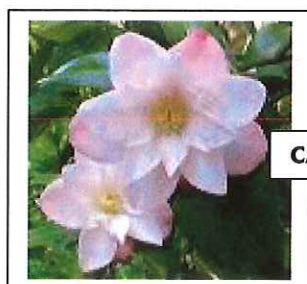
The Japonicas are the classic Camellia. Native to Japan.



HYBRID CAMELLIAS

Most of camellia cultivars are pure-bred. Meaning that they are derived only from a single species, whether it be camellia japonica, camellia reticulata, camellia sinensis or camellia sasanqua. But that a flower is of hybrid birth, the child of a marriage between two species should not condemn it. Indeed it may display new beauties that it's parents never knew – such as the hybrid camellia.

Hybrid Camellias have extremely desirable characteristics- flowers and foliage. Most hybrids are completely or partly sterile.



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CAMELLIAS in HISTORY and AT PRESENT

Camellias come from China and from lands bordering China to the east, west and south including parts of India, Burma, Korea, Taiwan the Phillipines and Japan. The genus camellia was named by the Swedish botanist Linnaeus for George Kamel, (Camellus in Latin), a Jesuit missionary who traveled in Asia and studied the flora of the Philippines.

The Chinese were first interested in camellias as a source of tea. Long ago (approx. 2700 BC), China lay under the rule of Emperor Shen Nung. According to record, Shen Nung was boiling water over an open fire in the royal garden when a few leaves from a nearby *Camellia sinensis* tree fell into the pot. Sheng Nung sampled the infusion, liked it, and tea was discovered - green tea to be exact. Oxidized black tea evolved in many cultures over the next 3,000 years, but all forms of Asian tea come from the leaves of the *Camellia sinensis* plant.

For centuries, the Chinese used oil extracted from the seeds of *Camellia oleifera* for cooking and for their hair. Later, temple priests in China were the first to appreciate the beauty of camellia flowers. The Buddhist love of natural beauty resulted in the selection and propagation of superior ornamental plants. The splendid reticulata camellias and their modern hybrid forms originated in China. The Chinese favor camellias with a simple flower form, (single/semi-double with an opened golden center symbolizing wealth to come) and they value their early blooms, which signal the awaking of spring. The red color signifies 'Good Luck and Health' for the New Year; unlike in the West, white is not regarded as a favorable color.

Japan has two highly ornamental native camellia species, *C. Japonica* and *C. Sasanqua*, which were put to use in breeders' efforts there to develop ornamental plants for the garden. *C. japonica* is the best known and most widely used cultivar today. And *sasanqua* camellias are very useful, floriferous plants that can tolerate full sun.

The first ornamental camellias arrived in the United States in 1798 in the form of *C. Japonica*. Throughout the 19th century, plant explorers brought various species of camellia to Europe and the warmer West Coast and Deep South, where large collections were amassed from the 1830's onwards. After World War II, interest in camellias increased, and now through hybridization, hardier forms allow gardeners over a much wider geographic range to enjoy the beauty of camellias of many types.

The American Camellia Society has developed six classifications for camellia flower forms: single, semi-double, anemone form, peony form, rose-form double, and formal double. Flowers range from 1" to 5" wide with yellow centers and rounded, overlapping petals, often like a rose. These flowers are prized, but so are the glossy leaves that stay a deep, shiny green all year. Camellias bloom from fall to late spring. They are used in borders and hedges, as specimen plants, and for colorful accents near outdoor living areas. They do well and are very attractive in containers. Some species camellias are fragrant, and modern hybridizers are trying to breed this feature into new plants.

Camellias are now grown widely, and many cultures beyond the Chinese see significance in their form and colors. For some, red camellias symbolize intrinsic worth and white blossoms mean loveliness. Displayed at Korean weddings, camellias represent longevity and faithfulness. For everyone, long-flowering camellia plants are highly rewarding.

CAMELLIA CULTURE

SOIL: Basically, all Camellias require the same culture. They prefer a well-drained soil that is high in humus content and slightly acid. In preparing the soil for planting in the ground, mix equal portions of sandy loam and peat moss, by volume. If leaf mold is available, it may be used in place of peat moss.

PLANTING: Dig the planting hole twice as large as the root ball and one and one-half times as deep. Fill the bottom of the hole with the prepared soil and tamp down firmly so that the top of the root ball, when placed in the hole, is 1" ABOVE the soil surface, as there will be some settling. The only way Camellias are temperamental is in the depth of the planting. The air requirement of the root is high, and when planted too deep, the roots will smother. The root crown should never be more than 2" below the surface of the soil. Fill in around the sides of the root ball with this same mixture, tamping it down firmly with the feet as you fill, then mound soil 3" high in the form of a saucer on the outside rim of the planting hole. Fill this saucer with water.

WATERING: Camellias should be moist at all times, but caution should be taken against their being WET at all times. Water well and deeply, but only as often as your own local weather conditions demand. Too much water, too often, will cut off the air the roots must have. During the flowering period, watering should be watched, as the mature flower is 90% water and a drying out of the plant can cause undersized blooms, as well as bud drop. Camellias will use large quantities of water during the summer growing periods. For container-grown Camellias, you will generally need to fill your containers once a week in the summer, and in the winter, you should be able to stretch the period to approximately ten days. On very dry days, or when the temperature rises above 85, sprinkle the foliage and the mulch in the late afternoon.

FERTILIZING: Fertilizing, or feeding, should start with the first signs of growth, even though the plant is still blooming. Caution should be taken never to overfeed. Camellias that have been injured with over-fertilizing take several seasons of special care to recuperate. Cottonseed meal, or commercial food specifically for Camellias, should be used. Your local nurseryman or garden shop will carry the prepared mixture best suited to your own local conditions. Follow the directions as printed on the package. If the plant is dry, water well the day before feeding; never feed a dry plant. Feed every 6 or 8 weeks from April through September.

PESTS AND DISEASE: Other than feeding and watering, Camellias require very little care. Some insect and pest control is necessary to insure a healthy plant. Scale and mites are the most serious threat, as they extract the plant juices and interfere with the normal development of foliage and stem growth. Generally speaking, Camellias rarely need spraying, so consult your local nurseryman and make certain that spraying is necessary.

PROTECTION: C. Japonica, C. Reticulata and the hybrids need protection from hot midday sun. For the flower's sake, the whites and pale pinks will need more shade than the deeper colors. "Shade" is a very relative term; in climates where humidity is high, Camellias can stand more sun than in climates that are hot and dry. C. Sasanqua is able to stand full sun even in hot dry climates, but does equally well in light shade. As to protection from cold, C. Sasanqua will stand temperatures of 10 degrees above zero to 5 degrees below zero with no injury. The Japonicas will stand temperatures to 5 degrees above zero, but the complete double flower types will have buds frozen and destroyed at this temperature. C. Reticulata is recommended for very mild areas, or glass house culture only. The hybrids, because they are hybrids, will vary from variety to variety as to the cold each will stand. Some of them have gone through temperatures of zero with little ill effects.

Blooming season of all Camellias listed is denoted by E, M, L.

E: Early (Mid-September-November)

M: Midseason (December-February)

L: Late (March-April)

What Camellias Need to Thrive

*An Adaptation of Terry Lyngso's talk at the SFPCS show, February, 2014
Lyngso Garden Materials*

Camellias need proper siting, good drainage, aerated soil and shaded roots. While some camellias are much more sun-tolerant than others, all camellias appreciate cool roots. Our native clay soils will be a challenge for camellias if they are compacted, as this leads to poor drainage; camellias like air in their root zone. That said, our clay soils do have advantages: they are well supplied with a broad spectrum of minerals and they are good at holding onto water as well as nutrients. You can work with the beneficial life in the soil to open up your clay soil allowing your camellias to thrive. Healthy soil biology makes the minerals the soil contains available to your plants. The biological structure built by the microbes allows air and water to get in, and move through, the soil. Camellias growing in a biologically active soil are also more disease-resistant. And when you have a biologically active soil you don't need to water as much!

Both clay soils and sandy soils can be improved by amending the soil with compost and with fine redwood or fir amendment. Sandy soils will benefit most from additions of well-made compost and a thick layer of mulch. Diestel Structured Turkey Compost is particularly good as it is completely composted and will add a diversity of beneficial microbial life as well as soluble nutrients and humus to the soil. Incorporating a combination of Diestel Compost and redwood or fir amendments into clay soils will open up the soil and allow air and water to enter.

When planting, make a wide planting hole, 3-5 times wider than the root ball but not deep! You want to be sure your camellia sits a little on the high side; it is very important to make sure you plant a little high. Fill the planting hole with water and see how long it takes to drain. It should drain completely within two hours. Take a pitch fork or breaker bar and break up the soil so there are no slick edges on the sides, and the bottom of the planting hole is roughed up. Fill in the hole with the soil you dug out, and for the top 4-6" of the hole use a mix of three parts existing soil, one part Diestel Compost and one part small fir or redwood amendment. Then top off the soil with ¼" of Diestel Compost and 2" of mulch; for mulch you can use small fir bark or wood chips. Make sure to keep the compost and mulch 4" away from the stem of the camellia. The compost and mulch on top of the soil will inoculate the soil with beneficial life and provide food for the soil organisms. Fall is a good time to place ¼" of well-made compost all around the root zone and out beyond the drip line of your established camellias; follow with mulch. Mulches keep the roots shaded and cool, and protect the soil from sun, wind and rain. And mulch is food for the beneficial microbes!

Organic fertilizers feed the life in the soil, and the life in the soil makes the nutrients in the organic fertilizer available to the plant. Chemical and organic fertilizers with numbers above 10-10-10 contain salt that can kill off the beneficial soil organisms if used excessively, so do not over-fertilize. Two recommended organic fertilizers for camellias are cottonseed meal and Down to Earth Acid Mix 4-3-6.

Another contributor to healthy soils is mycorrhizal fungi. The mycorrhizal fungi form a symbiotic relationship with roots of 95% of plants. The mycorrhizae are able to mine minerals that the plant requires from the soil, and deliver them, along with water, to the plants.

Another way to add life to soil is to apply Aerated Compost Tea. This Lyngso-made product is filled with the beneficial life found in well-made compost. It is especially good for container plants whose soil biology can be diminished.

The following are products that Lyngso makes or carries:

- ☒ ***Diestel structured compost**, made from the poop of free-range, chemical-free turkeys, along with forest trimmings, is completely finished compost and full of beneficial life, soluble nutrients and humus. As little as 1/4" around the root zone of your plants and out will make a big difference to your soil and your plants. Always cover compost with mulch to protect the compost from sun, wind, rain. \$5.00/U-Sack \$96.00/cubic yard.*
- ☒ ***Fine redwood amendment**, which breaks up clay nicely, is a lumber-mill product already treated with nitrogen. \$3.00/U-Sack \$36.50/yard*
- ☒ ***1/4-Fir**, breaks down faster than Fine redwood amendment. It is not nitrogen stabilized so best to add with 1:1 with compost when amending soil. \$3.50/U-Sack \$55.00/yard*
- ☒ ***Small red lava rock**, 5/16th-inch, helps air and moisture get into the soil and doesn't break down. Lyngso's potting mix includes red lava rock and can be used as an amendment in clay soil. \$4.75/U-Sack; \$66.00/yard*
- ☒ ***Fir bark**, especially the small size, is a good mulch, but is becoming more difficult to obtain and therefore expensive. \$3.75/U-Sack; \$68.00/yard*
- ☒ ***Arbor Mulch**, double ground and slightly composted, from tree trimmings. Provides good protection to the soil and food for the life in the soil. \$2.75 U/Sack \$26.00/yard*
- ☒ ***Lyngso's rhododendron mix** includes fir bark and lava rock, and is very loose. Camellias, rhododendrons, and other plants could be planted directly in it in pots, or it could be mixed into the top 4 to 6 inches of soil. \$4.25/U-Sack; \$80.00/yard*
- ☒ ***Actively Aerated Compost Tea**, to be applied fresh. \$8.00/gallon*
- ☒ ***Mycorrhizal Beneficial Soil Fungi**, included in **Root Growth Enhancer**; soluble \$20.00/16 oz or \$79.99/5 lbs; granular \$11.50/8 oz or \$64.50/5 lbs.*
- ☒ ***Down to Earth Acid Mix**; \$9.00/6 lbs; \$29.95/25 lbs*
- ☒ ***Cottonseed Meal**; \$42.00/50 lbs.*

Terry Lyngso of Lyngso's Garden Materials Inc., www.lyngsogarden.com

CAMELLIAS AS CONTAINER PLANTS

by Denise Kupperman

Camellias are ideal candidates for growing in containers. Here are a few reasons why:

- Camellias do not have aggressive root systems and take root pruning easily and can therefore remain in the same size container for many years.
- The evergreen foliage and relatively long bloom period typical of many camellia varieties make them lovely entryway specimens in the winter months. Most camellias can handle our winter sun and therefore can be placed at a sunny entry and moved to a shady spot in the garden in the spring. Think about having a couple of yuletides for your entry at Christmas and a couple of lovely pinks for Valentine's Day.
- Container growing provides camellias with the ideal drainage they require. In fact young plants often develop stronger root systems and perform better if grown in containers for the first few years before being planted in the garden.
- Container plants placed in a protected area may develop prize-winning blooms for a flower show. Blooms protected from winter wind and rain stand a better chance of developing without blemishes.
- Container growing allows for better control of petal blight because the soil can be changed annually, thereby removing the pathogens responsible for petal blight.
- Container growing allows for fickleness. Should you decide that you are no longer enamored with a particular plant, changing for another more compelling one is relatively easy. While it may be difficult to find spots in our gardens for all the fabulous varieties we covet, it is possible to grow and experiment with many plants that are kept in containers. Think about allocating some of the underutilized areas of your yard, such as your side yard, the area behind the garage or the back door porch, to camellias.

Some Growing Tips

- New plants should be transplanted into the same size pot if they are not already fully rooted in their existing pot. If the plant is fully rooted in its pot, then it may be moved to a pot that is only a few inches bigger than the root ball, or it may be replanted in the same pot after pruning the roots. Root pruning involves cutting a couple of inches from the exterior edges of the root ball with a very sharp knife or your favorite pruning tool. It is important to make clean cuts and use sharp clean tools. Girdling roots should be removed also.
- The existing soil should be washed off the roots of the plant before replanting in a container. This is accomplished by rinsing the root ball GENTLY with a garden hose, or soaking it in a bucket of water. Adding vitamin B and or other vitamin supplements such as Super Thrive™ to the root bath may be beneficial. A container may be plastic, clay or ceramic – the necessary features are a drainage hole and a couple inches of gravel at the bottom of the pot and a good potting soil.
- There are many options on the type of potting soil that should be used. In general, a mix of 1/3 compost, 1/3 lava rock and 1/3 garden soil works well. The addition of garden soil – ideally on the clay side – will help with water retention and lower the frequency for watering. Store purchased potting soils will work too, but tend to be light in texture, very permeable and therefore require more frequent watering.

With a little prudent and artful pruning, timely (or untimely) fertilizing, camellias grown in containers develop into outstanding specimens giving beauty and pleasure for many years.

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

FALL FERTILIZING FOR CAMELLIAS

The Camellia Connection asked two experts for advice on what products to use for this important feeding, and hearing of the same product line from each, decided to interview Joe Romeo whose company, Romeo Packing Co., is located in Princeton-by-the-Sea. Other companies may make soluble fertilizers, but Romeo's is our local source.

Fertilizers can be in granular or soluble form, and ideally a gardener would use both types, relying on the granular version to provide long-term nutrition to the plants and the soluble kind for a shorter-lived boost that can also come from essential trace minerals. Plants respond well to such a balanced feeding program.

Dry fertilizers are scattered under the plant and watered in by irrigation or rain, the moisture gradually leaching the nutrients from the granules as it passes into the soil. Granular fertilizers can be used on dry ground as long as the plants are watered well afterwards. Dry fertilizers are not usually mixed into the soil under a camellia, but if they are, they break down faster. Also, it's better to move your mulch aside when applying a dry fertilizer, as some mulches will absorb nitrogen from a fertilizer with which they come in contact.

Water-soluble fertilizers can be applied every two weeks and should be use monthly along with dry fertilizers in a balanced program. They can be applied through a hose-end sprayer of the Miracle-gro type. Romeo's sells an injector that can deliver an accurate dose combined with your hose water. A soluble fertilizer is used as a substitute for whatever amount of irrigation water might be given to a plant at one time. If your ground is dry, or the weather very hot, water the plant ahead of applying soluble fertilizer. This is especially important for camellias whose roots lie close to the surface.

Water-soluble fertilizers contain trace amounts of minerals like iron, manganese, zinc and magnesium, all of which contribute to the plant's health. Some granular fertilizers can contain iron, but in this form the iron is not well absorbed into heavy clay soils. A gardener would not need to use iron chelate if a water-soluble fertilizer with trace minerals is used monthly.

Romeo's Packing Co. makes both kinds of fertilizer; for the home gardener, Joe recommends the following:

Granular forms:

10-18-10 is a slow-release granular fertilizer for **year round use**. 10-18-10 is sold only in 50lb bags for \$60, but the company can provide directions for its use in an individual garden setting, assuming that several camellia lovers go in on a purchase. It is equivalent to Romeo's 15-30-15 soluble fertilizer.

WORKING WITH YOUR CAMELLIAS IN THE FALL

The Camellia Connection interviewed Cam Ainsworth for the information in this article. Thank you Cam!

Transplanting: location, soil mix and water

September or early October are the best times to move camellias in the ground to a new landscape location or from pot to pot. An in-ground camellia area may have become over-crowded such that you decide to space your plants out, or perhaps with other landscape changes your camellia may get too much midday sun. A potted camellia may have been in its pot for 2 to 3 years, and its middle-sized roots may be exposed at the surface. Allow yourself plenty of time over a period of a few days to move and renovate your plants if they need it. Preparation of the new area and soil is key.

Location

Camellias do best in morning sun, but they also tolerate all-day shade. Cam's best plants are in the ground on the north side of his Redwood City house. That said, the more sun your camellia gets, the more likely it is to set multiple flower buds.

Pot or hole size for camellias

Camellias like a fairly tight pot. As your potted camellia grows, move it up one pot size at a time. Thus a plant now in a 1-gallon pot may go to a 2- or 3- gallon pot; a 2-gallon plant may relocate to a 3- or 5-gallon pot. As Cam expresses it, don't put a \$2 camellia in a \$10 pot. The same applies to the hole you dig for your in-ground plant. And the hole should be wide but not deep.

Soil mix

This will be made up of fairly equal parts of the following: your soil (even adobe), good potting mix, a camellia-rhododendron planting mix (Cam likes Lyngso's), and steer manure. Now the instruction takes on a mystical note that goes back to Cam's first chemistry class: pile up your 4 elements in a heap; break it into two or three smaller piles and mix each pile well within itself; shovel the satellite piles together again into one heap; add a "few handfuls" of all-purpose or camellia fertilizer to the mega-heap, about two handfuls per 15 - 20 total gallons of product.

Moving the plant ~ potted plant

The day before re-planting is to take place, remove the potted plant from its container and immerse it in a tub of water. Once the root ball is wet, poke and agitate the root ball to loosen it. Do not be afraid of the soil washing off the roots. Clip the roots if they are wrapped tightly around, or crusted on the upper surface.

Using the soil mix described above, put a layer on the bottom of the new pot, then gently position the plant in it, spreading the roots with your fingers. Add more soil mix to fill the pot, keeping the main hardened root exposed to the air before it dives down into the pot. Tamp soil down and

water well. Water daily for a couple of weeks. Maintaining good hydration is the secret of successful transplanting.

Moving the plant ~ in-ground plant

The day before transplanting an in-ground plant, water the area well to loosen the soil. Once the soil is wet, work around the plant in a 2 - 3 foot radius around the stem and loosen the soil. Gradually move in closer to the plant's stem, loosening as you go, but coming no closer than one foot to the plant's stem. Try to locate the position of large roots. Water all well and leave until the next day. Next, fill the new hole you dug with water.

Next day, spread a layer of good soil with humus on the bottom of the new, dried hole. Agitate the plant firmly and raise it from the ground, retaining as much root as possible. Loosen the root ball, fanning out the roots to achieve optimum spread. Position the plant over its new hole with the soil-humus layer and begin to backfill the hole, holding the plant up so its crown will eventually be 1 to 2 inches above the surrounding soil level. Tamp down the soil and stake the plant to provide stability. Remove any straggly or damaged branches. Water well, repeating frequently over the next few weeks. Visit the camellia two days after re-planting it to check drainage and plant position. One week later, add mulch to the area, keeping it away from the stem.

Fertilizing in the fall

For better blooms on continuing camellias (not recently transplanted), fertilize with 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 product. Or use an organic general purpose camellia food.

For transplanted plants in the ground, add a small amount of 10-10-10 fertilizer, ("a handful"), which will help promote vigorous growth in the coming spring. Do not fertilize newly transplanted potted plants with granular fertilizer. A dilute feeding of water-soluble fertilizer may be used.

Care for your continuing camellias

Rake up debris (dead leaves and old mulch) from under the plants and spread new mulch. Cam favors Lyngso's camellia mulch mix that is heavy on fir bark.

Keep your plants open and tidy. "Any time is a good time" to keep plants neat, Cam says. Use sharp clippers to remove small shoots at the base of older plants. Keep those clippers sharp!

Disbud as you see fit: for better blooms, remove all but one, downward-facing bud per branch; for garden display, disbud to leave two buds per branch, one main bud and one smaller that will open later in the season. Buds on the inside of a plant tend to open later.

PREPARING CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SHOWS

1. Read the show schedule.
2. Start your bloom entry plan the week before the show.
3. Note the class your camellia is in: japonica, reticulata, non-retic hybrid, etc.
4. Classes will be labeled alphabetically by species.
5. Clean boxes and get tools ready; brushes, tweezers, clippers, cotton.
6. Pin back leaves with clothes pins, disbud and prune if necessary.
7. Muffin tins work well for carrying blooms.

CUTTING/HANDLING BLOOMS

1. Remove leaves next to the bloom.
2. Select cup size so bloom will cover sides of cup.
3. Solo plastic cups are used for the camellia blooms.
4. Fill cup with perlite and water; floral preservative can be used.
5. Put bloom in container, propped if needed, with cotton.
6. Clean blooms after you get to the show, no ants or bugs.
7. If using leaves, polish with milk, cream or mayonnaise.
8. Keep blooms cool or refrigerated until the show.

EXHIBITING TIPS

1. Walk the show to see what the competition is.
2. Gather trays for carrying your blooms to the tables.
3. Be sure your camellia is in the right classification to be judged.
4. Put the entry card in front of the bloom showing only the bloom name.
5. To open bloom fully, push with Q-tip, and blow on the petals.
6. Tilt the bloom slightly toward the judging side of the table.

OUT OF TOWN TRIPS

1. Gas up the car, and get directions to the show location.
2. Drive in a smooth lane on the highway.
3. Dress warmly so the car can be kept cool for the blooms.

HOW TO FILL OUT A SHOW ENTRY CARD

Sample Show Entry Card:

Section No. _____			
Variety _____			
Exhibitor _____			
Address _____			
1 st <input type="radio"/> Award	2 nd <input type="radio"/> Award	3 rd <input type="radio"/> Award	Head <input type="radio"/> Table
1 st <input type="radio"/> Award	2 nd <input type="radio"/> Award	3 rd <input type="radio"/> Award	Head <input type="radio"/> Table
Exhibitor _____			
Address _____			
(Return this portion to tabulation room.)			
Section No. _____			
Variety _____			
PLEASE PRINT			

Show Entry Cards will be available at the show. The following instructions will assist you in completing the form.

Section No. is J-1 or NJ-1 – for japonica or novice japonica class. Other designations are possible: eg. J-3 for a group of three japonicas, or CS-1 for camellia spray. See the brochure included in the envelope.

Variety is the name of the flower, for example 'Debutante'

Exhibitor is your name and your **Address**, which are repeated below the center section of the card. That's why your return address labels are handy.

Section no. & Variety are repeated, as above.

The card is designed to be folded so that the name of the exhibitor is hidden during judging. The information is repeated because the card will be split in two after judging, with one half staying with the flower and the other used for tabulating sweepstakes winners, etc.

Please note: Cups and medium, as well as help with the most effective display of your flowers, will be available in the hours before judging. But please don't leave it until the last minute before arriving with flowers.

CAMELLIA CARE CALENDAR

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Dormant Season			Growing Season					Dormant Season			
Japonica bloom								Sasanqua bloom			
	Retic bloom									J.bloom	
Dormant Fertilizing			Growth Fertilizing						Dormant Fertilizing		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Pruning								
			<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Control				
			← Control as Necessary →								
Disbudding									Disbudding		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Cuttings		<input type="checkbox"/> Cuttings						
	Grafting							Grafting			
Moving/Repotting									Moving/Repotting		
										Gibbing	
								Seed Harvest			

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C. sinensis

Let's play a game of word association. The word is "camellia." You probably thought of 'japonica' as most people do. In fact, in the Deep South many people still refer to their camellia plants as japonicas. To be sure, the collector might also think of the large reticulatas or even the hybrids and sasanquas, but of all of the camellia species none is nearly as important as *C. sinensis*. In fact, it is one of the most important crops of the world next to the grains and cotton and has held this position for centuries. Even wars have been fought over the possession of this species. What makes *C. sinensis* so important? It is the source of tea.

Of all of the camellia species, it is the only one with appreciable quantities of caffeine. The tea plant is grown in vast areas of China, Japan, India, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and neighboring areas and, in fact, has been tried in several areas of the United States. Tea has been the backbone of many shipping routes of the past, the primary source of wealth for several kingdoms and yet we know so little about it. This is most likely because it is not a showy plant and, being a plant of agriculture, it is not likely to be high on the "socially acceptable" plant list.

Two main forms of *C. sinensis* are now recognized—*C. sinensis*. Var. *sinensis* and *C. sinensis* var. *assamica*. From these two main types, many horticultural forms have developed, two of which are illustrated in the

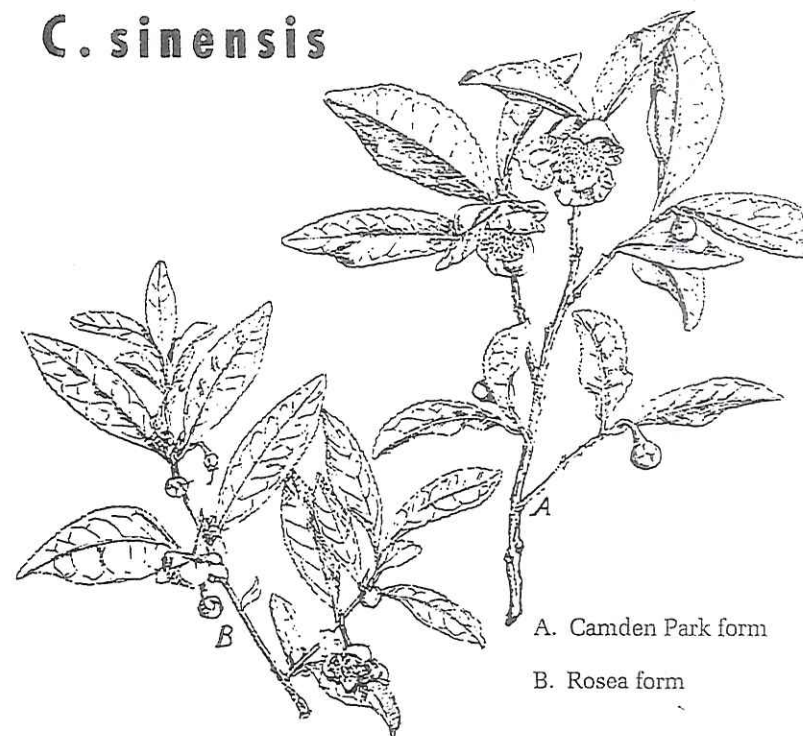
accompanying drawing. These forms, together with the climatic and soil conditions where grown, account for the host of teas available on the market. These various forms have been grown for centuries and only recently a report from China tells of a tree found in the wild which is 100' high and has a trunk measuring 126" in diameter! Now that's some camellia. It is believed to be about 1,000 years old. Not all forms develop into trees, even with time. It is the bush forms that are usually favored for commercial uses.

For a change, consider adding *C. sinensis* to your plantings and brew a cup of tea while you're at it.

C. sinensis is a good choice for general landscape work, especially as a filler or background plant. The leaves are thin, of a light medium green measuring about 3/4" x 1". The twigs are brown turning to

gray with age. The flowers, borne up and down the stems, are usually white, though a pink form is known, 5/8 to 7/8" in diameter, single and of a cup form. Seed is set readily and, being an early bloomer, it is finished blooming before one has to be concerned with petal blight. Propagation is best done by seed or, to retain a special type, by cuttings. Grafts tend to decline in a few years though a cultivar grafted onto a seedling would undoubtedly be long-lived. The growth habit is usually compact and they can readily be trimmed, even as a hedge or topiary subject.

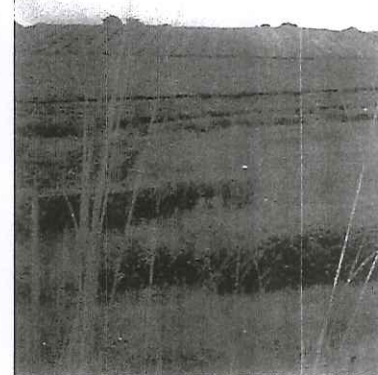
Tea plants—*C. sinensis*



A. Camden Park form

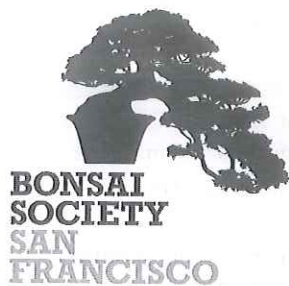
B. Rosea form

Editor's note: Gene mentioned China, Japan, India and Sri Lanka as tea-growing countries, but Bobbie and I enjoyed visiting a tea plantation just outside of Kluang, Malaysia, during the year we lived there.



Left - inside a tea processing plant

Above - a tea plantation



Basic Care Instructions for Bonsai

General care

- Keep the tree outside and give it as much sun as you can. When it's hot (80+) you can give morning sun and afternoon shade to keep the tree from drying out too quickly. Some species prefer more sun while others prefer less sun. Pines, Junipers and other conifers generally need all-day sun. Maples and other

tender-leaf trees may benefit from partial shading, or afternoon shade provided by the shadow of a building or large tree.

- Bonsai are best kept in free-draining soil mediums, which allow good air penetration to the roots but dry more quickly than normal potting soil. Join a club or seek out an experienced teacher to get hands-on experience with repotting.
- Water trees every day or when the soil begins to look dry. The type of soil will affect the rate at which the trees need to be watered. During winter watering is less frequent; during rainy periods check daily to ensure that the tree does not dry out, water only as needed. Water with a hose or watering can gently from above. Soaking is okay occasionally but should not be the normal method of watering because it can cause salt buildup in the soil. Watch whether the water penetrates the soil when you water, if it sheds to the side scrape the topsoil to loosen it and replace.
- Fertilize once per week or once every two weeks. Ideally use a combination of mostly organic fertilizer (like E.b. Stone mixes, cottonseed meal, bone meal, blood meal etc) with a supplement of some inorganic fertilizer (like Miracle-Gro)
- An alternative to weekly fertilizer is periodic application of time-release fertilizer. Ensure that the fertilizer will not salt burn the plant when using this type of product by reading the directions carefully.
- Keep trees free of weeds and debris – while moss is generally okay on the soil surface, grass, scotch moss, oxalis and other weeds should be removed to allow good air penetration in the soil and more room for root growth for the tree.
- Check for signs of pests and diseases each time you water. Spray as needed; Neem oil is a good first step in pest control.
- Grow out – cut back. This is the cycle of growth that will keep your tree healthy and provide branching to further your styling choices. Do not remove new growth in favor of old growth. Replace older branches with newer, smaller ones.
- In Spring weak trees should be allowed to grow. Trees that grow out strongly can be pruned back according to best practices for the particular species.
- You can simply “clip-and-grow” your tree, to create shape in the branching. If you want to add more interest, wire is the primary means of shaping in modern bonsai. Wire application is not difficult but takes some practice, learning from a bonsai club or teacher can be very helpful. Use the wire to move branches into position to enhance the design of your plant. Many trees can be wired 2-3 times to set the proper branch structure before changing to clip-and-grow methods.
- Avoid straight lines in your composition. The trunk and branching should compliment each other and have good movement.
- Northern California climate is generally mild enough that no winter protection is required for bonsai. If you live in an area where temperatures dip below 28 degrees F during winter protect your plant by placing it on the ground and adding mulch over the container during the coldest months. More significant winter protection is warranted in areas with long colder winters.
- Plan to repot in Dec, Jan or Feb - the dormant season for most trees. If you plan to keep the tree small, pot it into a bonsai container. If you want the tree to be larger or more complex plant it into a large container or into the ground and allow branches to run before doing additional wiring and styling. Many bonsai growers keep only their best and oldest trees in ceramic containers.
- Strive for balance – carefully observe the tree and try to maintain balance in the branching by selectively removing foliage from the stronger parts. Investigate the proper season for pruning cuts for your species of tree.

Indoor Growing

- Indoor growing is only appropriate for species that are tropical or semi-tropical. Various Ficus species, Fukien Tea and similar can be grown indoors. Do not grow junipers, pines or other temperate climate trees indoors.
- Maximize light exposure by using a south- or west-facing window that gets lots of direct light. Remember that the more sun, the faster the plant will dry out. Provide supplemental light if needed (LED grow lights or similar) and rotate your trees frequently to provide even exposure.

Need more Help?

- Check out www.bssf.org and sign up for our email newsletter, it's free and membership is not required!
- Sign up for one of our bonsai workshops or classes, we offer basics classes 2-3 times per year and monthly programs for bonsai enthusiasts of all levels. Check the meetings page at www.bssf.org/meetings for more details.

Repotting – It's one of the most important things to do to a bonsai, but also one of the scariest for many novice growers. Repotting aims to reduce the accumulated root growth in the container while simultaneously providing fresh room for the tree to grow. Bonsai are typically repotted every 1-3 years during the dormant season (Dec-February in the Bay Area.)

Soil The choice of soil medium is very important in bonsai, and is typically not standard "potting soil." While potting soil can be used, it is not ideal for the long-term health of a bonsai. Because the components break down; they do not provide optimal conditions for long-term container growth of tree species. Any soil used should preferably be very free-draining. A standard potting soil can be amended with sand, decomposed granite and/or perlite to create a lighter and more porous mixture.

Ideal soil mix for bonsai should be largely inorganic containing no particles smaller than 1/16th inch. A general-purpose mix contains equal parts Pumice, Lava and Akadama (literally "Red Ball", it is a Japanese clay product that retains water and nutrients well). Add a small amount of horticultural charcoal and decomposed granite if available. Screen soil to 5/16"-3/8" (medium) for larger trees and screen soil to 1/16" to 1/4" (small) for small trees and as top-dressing for larger trees. Apply a thin layer of sphagnum moss (preferably New Zealand type) around the base of the tree after repotting to retain more moisture at the surface. The amount of moss can be tailored to your environment and watering habits.

Repotting procedure

- Carefully remove the tree from the container it is potted in. If there are tie wires holding it in, cut them from below before doing so. Cut and wires holding screen in as well. Use a chopstick, scraper or similar tool to scrape along the edge of the pot to loosen the tree. Avoid using the trunk or branching as a lever or handle when removing the tree from the container. You will typically have to scrape all the way to the bottom of the pot on three sides to remove a tree easily from the container.
- Once removed, address the preparation of the container prior to working on the rootball. Add two tie wires, typically aluminum wire (but other wire can work too) run from one drain hole to the other. Add screen over the drain holes to prevent soil from escaping. (Try self-adhesive plastic drywall tape or cross-stitch mesh from a hobby store) The wire should go through the screen rather than around the edge. Tie wires prevent trees from being knocked out of their containers and stabilize the roots to prevent damage.
- Examine the root ball for soil condition. If any conditions exist that appear overly soggy explore the area to see if roots are alive or dead. Dead roots should be removed and cut back to live tissue. (live roots will appear bright inside when cut, while dead roots will normally fall apart and be brown inside.)
- Assuming there are roots throughout the root ball, remove circling roots on the bottom until when cutting you find roots that are extending downward rather than running sideways. Set the rootball on a surface and trim circling roots from the side and comb out the mat of roots along the edges.
- If you are changing soil mediums rake out the soil between roots to make space for new soil. On conifers only half the root ball should be combed out at any one time. On deciduous material, the entire root ball normally can be cleaned all at once.
- Add a small amount of soil to the bottom of your pot, mounded slightly, and place the tree on top of it, wiggling it down to firm the soil on the underside of the root ball. Use the tie wires to secure the tree by twisting the ends together securely (pliers help.)
- Add more soil and using a chopstick, work the new soil between the roots and fill the space around the edges created by trimming the roots.
- Level the soil slightly below the rim of the container.
- Water the tree thoroughly. Watering should be more frequent than normal for about 4-6 weeks after repotting while the tree re-establishes the fine feeder roots. Avoid chemical fertilizer during this time, fertilize instead with dilute organic liquid or solid organic fertilizer spread on the surface.
- Adding sphagnum moss to the surface can prevent the tree from drying out as quickly.

Want help?

Sign up for one of our winter repotting workshops! We offer basics classes 2-3 times per year and monthly programs for bonsai enthusiasts of all levels. Check the meetings page at www.bssf.org/meetings for more details.