

Botanical Name: Camellia japonica

Common Name: Japanese camellia

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, rounded or pyramidal, depending on variety --  
usually taller than wide

Height 5-10' (20') Spread 6-8' Growth Rate slow/moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors partial sun/shade -- full sun along coast

Soil well-draining, acidic, composted soil

Hardiness hardy, avoid dry heat (zones 4-9, 14-24)

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, elliptic-oval-ovate, finely serrate,  
dark green, 2-4" long, leathery

Flowers many forms depending on variety -- single, double, white,  
pink, red -- mostly late winter

Fruit small capsule

Propagation: semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: accent shrub for flowers, medium to large filler, espalier,  
container plant, excellent for mixing with azaleas, ferns and other acid-  
loving plants

Landscape Care:

Watering regular -- tolerates heavy if drainage is good

Fertilizing acid, monthly from April to December

Pruning little is required -- prune to shape after blooming

Pests/Diseases scale, aphids, spider-mite; camellia petal blight

Special Conditions clean up flowers, keep soil mulched

Origin: China Family: Theaceae