



Debutante Camellia

Camellia Japonica

03-12



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 4-9, 12, 14-24,	Best out of strong sun	Planting mix with 50% or more of organic matter	Moderate to regular watering	Rosette, large, peony-like, pink, double bloom September to November	In California the can reach 20 feet tall

A native of China, camellias are a traditional favorite across the southeastern United States. The flowers are prized, but so are the glossy leaves that stay a deep, shiny green all year. It is a slow grower, but eventually will reach up to 20 feet tall. Camellias flower from late winter to early spring. Over 3,000 varieties, cultivars and hybrids of *Camellia japonica* are cultivated.

The genus was named for George Kamel, a Jesuit missionary who traveled in Asia and studied the flora of the Philippines. Red camellias symbolize intrinsic worth and white blossoms mean loveliness. Displayed at Korean weddings as far back as 1200 BC, camellias represent longevity and faithfulness.

Camellias like acid soil with plenty of moisture. Prune in spring after flowering. Keep other plants a safe distance away and apply mulch to protect the camellia's shallow roots.

Prefers partial shade or filtered sun, but they need more sun in colder climates. Some information indicates that early-morning sun may cause petals to become limp and brown, but my camellias prefer filtered morning sun and the late-afternoon western sun would fry them.