

CAMELLIA CARE CALENDAR

Camellias are easy to grow in most areas of Victoria. They are generally hardy and resistant to pests and diseases.

- Preferably choose a partly shaded, sheltered position, especially for lighter coloured blooms; brighter colours and reds will withstand more exposed positions.
- Incorporate compost, leaf-mould or well rotted cow manure when preparing the site for planting. Site must be well drained.
- Do not plant too deeply.
- Camellias grow well in containers – use a good quality potting mix and do not over-pot. Compact, slower growing plants are the best choice.

SPRING – SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

September Pruning should be done before new growth begins. Fertilize plants for the new spring growth.

October Watch for aphids and caterpillars on new growth. Blooming season is coming to an end. New growth will wilt if soil dries out.

November Seed pods appear from now on, remove them if you don't intend to collect the seed. Add mulch around the plants to help retain moisture over summer.

SUMMER – DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

December Give a light application of fertilizer late in the month. Water regularly and spray foliage on hot days in the evening. Flower buds begin to develop.

January Cuttings can be taken now. Watch for insect pests. Give careful attention to watering and check mulch and replenish if necessary.

February Regular and deep watering should be carried out.

AUTUMN – MARCH, APRIL MAY

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| March | Seed pods will be reaching maturity, pick them before they open. Water regularly when necessary. Early sasanquas begin to bloom. Fertilize late in the month or into April. |
| April | Sasanquas peak towards end of the month. This is an ideal time to plant out, re-pot or transplant. |
| May | Early japonicas and hybrids will begin to bloom. Watch water situation if there is a dry spell, this is crucial for flower buds. |

WINTER - JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

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| June | More varieties will be blooming. |
| July | Little attention to plants is required except to make sure that container plants do not dry out. |
| August | This is the peak of blooming season for most varieties. |