

# Swarkestone Nursery

[www.swarkestonenursery.co.uk](http://www.swarkestonenursery.co.uk)

## Guide to Camellias



Camellias have a unfair reputation of being difficult to grow, this is a shame as with good preparation and a little care Camellias are as easy to grow as most other garden shrubs.

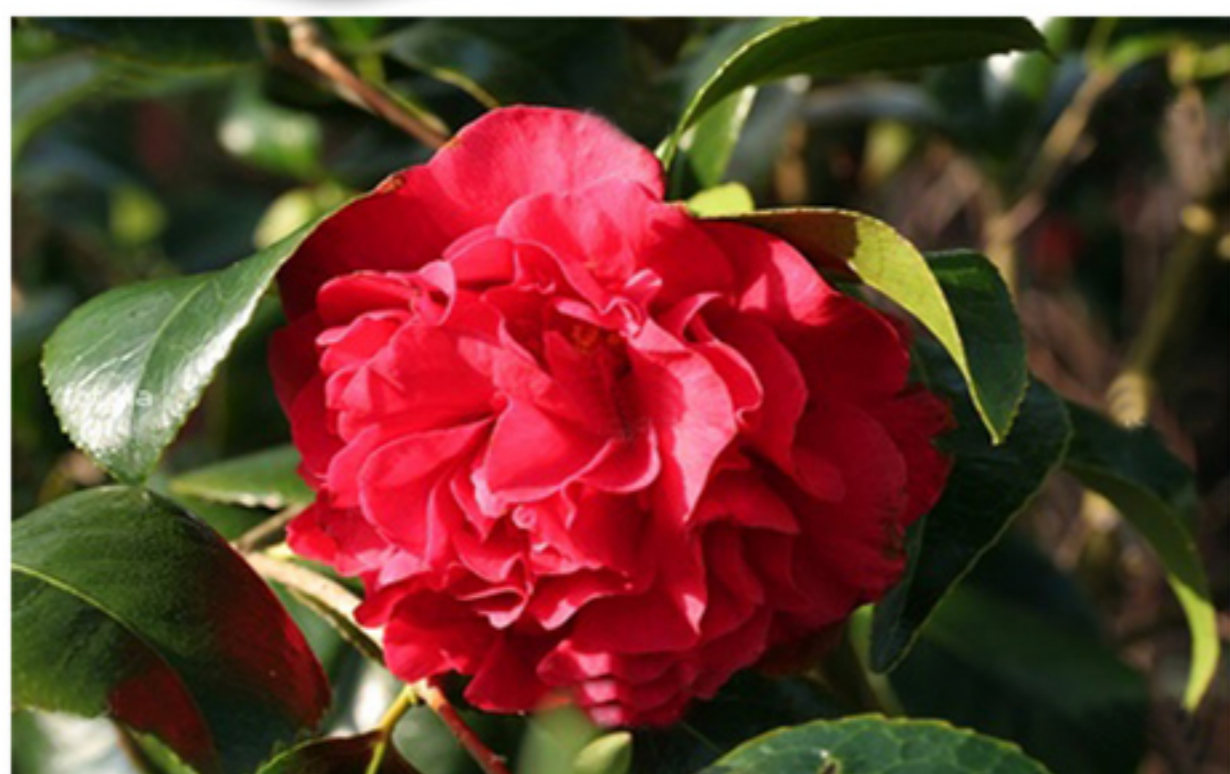
Camellias need shelter if they are to thrive. An area in dappled shade under trees is ideal, but they will tolerate a more open position if shaded for part of the day. A west-facing aspect is perfect as strong early morning sun on frosted flower buds can cause them to thaw too quickly and drop off. In very exposed gardens, camellias are best fan-trained on a west or south-facing wall.

Generally, they prefer neutral or acid soil, although camellias will tolerate slightly limey soil, if it is well drained and fertile.

Prepare the soil before planting by adding home made compost or a good quality ericaceous compost such as Westland's Rhododendron, Azalea & Camellia Compost



Camellias are very good container shrubs ideal for gardeners with chalky or very limey soils, again a bag of ericaceous compost will satisfy their needs for acidic growing conditions. But as will shrubs that are grown in containers a feed "top-up" is needed once or twice a year. To keep the leaves looking healthy and green a Sequestered Iron plant tonic is recommended.



Although they will flower without regular pruning, camellias can outgrow their allotted space unless kept in check. This is best done after flowering but before new growth begins. Deadheading should be done as the petals fade in order to tidy up the plant and prevent energy being wasted on setting seed. *C. x williamsii* varieties usually drop their flowers as they fade and do not require deadheading.

### Notable Varieties

Camellia japonica 'William Barlett'  
Camellia williamsii 'Donation'  
Camellia japonica 'Margaret Davis'  
Camellia japonica 'Doctor King'  
Camellia japonica 'Lady Campbell'

Camellia japonica 'Silver Anniversary'  
Camellia williamsii 'Debbie'  
Camellia japonica 'Jury's Yellow'

