

Camellia japonica

Botanical name: *Camellia japonica*

Common name: Rose of winter

Morphological characters:

Camellia japonica is a flowering tree or shrub, usually 1.5–6 metres (4.9–19.7 ft) tall, but occasionally up to 11 metres (36 ft) tall. Some cultivated varieties achieve a size of 72m² or more. The youngest branches are purplish-brown, becoming grayish-brown as they age. The alternately arranged leathery leaves are dark green on the top side, paler on the underside, usually 5–11 centimetres (2.0–4.3 in) long by 2.5–6 centimetres (1.0–2.4 in) wide with a stalk (petiole) about 5–10 millimetres (0.2–0.4 in) long. The base of the leaf is pointed (cuneate), the margins are very finely toothed (serrulate) and the tip somewhat pointed. The flowers appear along the branches, particularly towards the ends, and have very short stems. They occur either alone or in pairs, and are 6–10 centimetres (2.4–3.9 in) across. There are about nine greenish bracteoles and sepals. Flowers of the wild species have six or seven rose or white petals, each 3–4.5 centimetres (1.2–1.8 in) long by 1.5–2.5 centimetres (0.6–1.0 in) wide; the innermost petals are joined at the base for up to a third of their length. (Cultivated forms often have more petals.) The numerous stamens are 2.5–3.5 centimetres (1.0–1.4 in) long, the outer whorl being joined at the base for up to 2.5 centimetres (1.0 in). The three-lobed style is about 3 centimetres (1.2 in) long. The fruit consists of a globe-shaped capsule with three compartments (locules), each with one or two large brown seeds with a diameter of 1–2 centimetres (0.4–0.8 in). Fruiting occurs in September to October in the wild.



Growing season and type:

1. They require a loose, well-amended, acidic (6.5 pH) soil that is moist without remaining soggy, and little competition from other plants' roots.
2. Their roots have high oxygen demands, therefore are pretty shallow.
3. Camellias are not heavy feeders and do not react well to over-stimulation.



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1. Flower of *Camellia japonica*

2. Leaf of *Camellia japonica*

3. *Camellia japonica* plant

Source: <http://treeflower.la.coocan.jp/Theaceae/Camellia%20japonica%20decumbens%20Otometsubaki/Camellia%20japonica%20decumbens%20Otometsubaki.htm>

