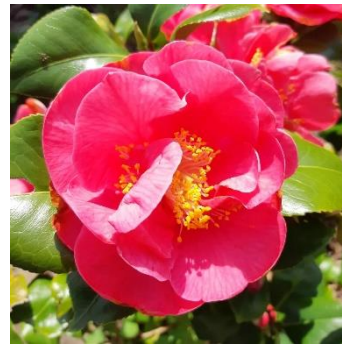


Fulligrove House Garden

Common name: **Common Camellia**

Botanical name: ***Camellia japonica*** (cultivars)



- ❖ Evergreen shrub
- ❖ Flowers from late February to April.
 - White - an anemone-form *Camellia japonica* 'Brushfield's yellow' - white outer petals and creamy-yellow ruffled centres
 - Deep pink - a smaller pink semi-double flowered Camellia.
- ❖ Glossy, leathery, oval green leaves alternately arranged with serrated edges
- ❖ Bushy perennial
- ❖ Height up to 4m, spread up to 2m (other varieties can be much larger)
- ❖ Camellias must be grown in acid soil, in sun or dappled shade. In containers, use an ericaceous (acidic) compost.
- ❖ Hardy
- ❖ Member of the Theaceae (Tea) family
- ❖ The pollen laden stamens and nectar provide food for bees and attract recently emerged queen bumble bees. They also provide nectar to hummingbirds in other countries.
- ❖ Find the white one in area 3 and the deep pink one in area 5 of the garden.

Did you know?

Camellias are found in tropical and subtropical areas in eastern and southern Asia, from the Himalayas to Japan and Indonesia. There are more than 220 described species - almost all are found in southern China and Indochina. There are 26,000 cultivars! The ornamental *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia sasanqua* species and their hybrids are the source of hundreds of garden cultivars. Confusingly *Camellia japonica* is native to China, despite the species name '*japonica*' meaning 'of Japan'. The leaves of the *Camellia sinensis* species are processed to create tea, with the processed leaves widely sold and consumed globally. *Camellia oleifera* produces tea seed oil used in cooking and cosmetics.

Camellia oil is commonly used to clean and protect the blades of cutting instruments. Camellia oil pressed from seeds of *C. japonica*, has been traditionally used in Japan for hair care. The *C. japonica* plant is used to prepare traditional anti-inflammatory medicines.

Camellia flowers can be single, semi-double, have a central cluster of short petals (anemone form), have many soft petals (peony-form) or have pointed petals arranged more formally (rose-form double and formal double).

Camellias dislike the cold winds. In addition, although many are fully hardy, the buds and flowers are prone to damage caused by the morning sun and frosts. To avoid or reduce this problem, do not plant Camellia facing east where the blooms will catch the morning sun. This is particularly a problem when there is frost followed by morning sun, which really damages the buds and blooms, causing them to go brown. We had another camellia here in area 11 beside the ceanothus tree. The previous ceanothus died and when it was taken down the camellia was exposed to wind and sun, the buds went black and the shrub died.

A sheltered non-east facing spot is best. Camellias prefer semi-shade and they are frequently planted in woodland settings alongside other acid-loving plants such as rhododendrons. They are particularly associated with areas of high soil acidity, such as Cornwall and Devon in the UK.

Fruit sometimes appears which is a dry capsule. It breaks open to reveal the 3 round seeds. The bottom right photo overleaf shows such a fruit.

Sources of information

[Spring-flowering camellias / RHS Gardening](#)

[Camellia - Wikipedia](#)

[Camellia 'Brushfield's Yellow' plants | Thompson & Morgan](#)

<https://www.buzzaboutbees.net/winter-flowering-shrubs-for-bees.html>

Quick guide to arrangement of petals:

- Single - row of petals round conspicuous stamens - no more than 8 petals
- Semi-double - two rows of petals with conspicuous stamens
- Double - multi rows of petals, no stamen showing
- Formal double - multi rows of petals in a symmetrical shape, no stamen showing
- Paeony- mass mixed irregular petals, with or without stamens
- Anemone – several rows of large outer petals with intermingled petaloids and stamen in the centre