

Soil pH for Camellia Cultivation

Soil pH, or potential Hydrogen, and numeric scales are used to describe whether the soil is acidic or alkaline. A pH reading of 7.0 is considered neutral. Higher than 7.0 is considered alkaline and below 7.0 are acidic. Soils that are too alkaline can prevent nutrients from being taken up into the plant thus causing nutrient deficiencies. If you are unsure of your soil pH, or if your plants are not performing well, it would be wise to have your soil tested. Keep in mind that soil pH can be different as close as 2-3 feet away—so checking the exact area they are growing in will give you correct results

- Camellias prefer a soil pH of 5.5 to 6.5 for best results and to maintain optimum health.
- Damage, growth problems and nutrient deficiencies can occur in plants that are growing in soils with a pH balance.
- Garden soil pH probe testers are not always accurate. Chemical tests are more accurate. Your county ex-



tension service should be able to provide soil testing for you.

A lot of things can affect soil acidity, soil makeup or materials in the soil, excessive rain fall or drought, and even some fertilizers can add or reduce pH levels. Having your soil tested is a sure-fire way to know for sure exactly what soil you have and how to correct it if necessary.



Growing Camellias Indoors

In some areas it may not be suitable to grow camellias outdoors during the winter months, or in

certain cases, at all depending on your circumstances. Understanding the plant needs will help you be successful in growing camellias in other areas besides their natural habitat.

Camellias prefer bright light, but not direct sun which could burn the leaves. If at all possible grow them outdoors and bring them indoors during the winter months.

Tips for Growing camellias indoors

- When indoors, keep away from heat sources such as fire places and heaters.
- Provide bright but indirect light
- Cool temperatures
- Humidity, 50-60%
- Turn your camellias often to prevent stretching
- Follow the guidelines for growing camellias in containers on page 16.