

Growing in Containers

Most Camellias can be successfully grown in containers as long as you remember some very important tips!

The most important thing to remember about a Camellia is that it will absolutely not tolerate wet soils or soils that do not drain properly. Make sure you pay close attention to the recommendations we have for potting soils.

Growing in Containers—tips

- Choose a container that is about twice as large as the root mass of your plant.
- AVOID containers that are too large or you could have uneven water and nutrient distribution which could lead to trouble with your plant. Keep plant roots near the top of the pot.
- Make sure your container has plenty of drain holes.
- Fill the bottom with larger pebbles or stones so that water can drain well to the bottom of the pot and out. Avoid clogging holes.
- Clay will pull more water out of the soil—so if you must use clay, pay close attention to your plants water needs.
- Don't let your container sit in a saucer of water. Drain water off so that water will not be wicked back up into the pot.

Choose the correct potting soil for Camellias

The natural habitat for camellias are soils that are organic in nature and well drained. The biggest mistake people make with camellias is buying the bagged potting mixes that contain peat. Peat moss adds moisture retention to the soil which is something that camellias plants will not tolerate. We do not recommend that you use the commercial bagged mixes unless you have used them with camellias before.



We use a soil mix that contains 80% finely ground aged pine bark, 20% Perlite. If these materials are not available in your area, you can substitute something similar. For example, you may not have access to pine bark, perhaps some other type of aged bark could be substituted such as Fir bark.

Garden centers may have bagged ground aged bark and may call it soil conditioner - check the ingredients to be sure. Nurseries in your area may have the bark, sand and peat soil - check with a local nursery in your area.



BEST Camellia Soil Recipe

80% **Finely Ground Aged** bark
(pine, fir, cedar)
20% Perlite

Perlite is vital to success! Don't Omit

Alternative Potting Soil Recipe

3 parts Miracle Grow Orchid Mix™

(we have not tested other brands)

***2 Parts Perlite

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Don't Omit

