

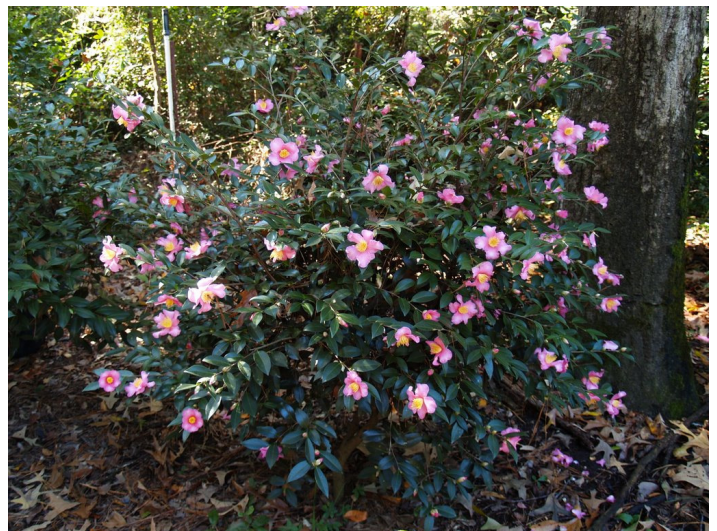
Planting in colder climates - Zones 7 and 6

Traditionally the camellia belt is known as zones 8 and 9. In the past, zones north of this area such as 7, 6 and 5, have not been very habitable for growing camellias outdoors—but in some areas that are warmer, some camellias are grown outdoors with not much trouble. It all depends on your individual climate and the variety of camellia you choose.

Research has shown that there are some camellias that have proven to grow outdoors and handle cold much better than others. With the development of Cold hardy Hybrids, the choices are much better than 20 years ago. First you should know what to expect from your camellia and then be prepared to offer it the best chance to grow.

Tips for growing camellias in colder climates from Dr. William Ackerman, expert nurseryman and developer of many of our cold hardy camellias:

- Choose varieties that are suitable for planting outdoors for your climate. Not all camellias will do well in a colder climate. Ask your nursery professional which varieties are recommended for outdoor planting.
- Follow the planting instructions on page ____
- Spring planting is recommended rather than fall planting, unless the plants are protected the first winter or two. Water well all season especially if the weather is dry.
- Avoid full sun especially early morning sun during freezing winter weather. A canopy of evergreen shade trees will provide shade all winter and is ideal.
- Planting near a wall or other structure can help block harsh winter winds.
- Do not fertilize after June in colder climates of zone 5, 6 and 7. Spring applications of Hollytone or other applications is sufficient.



Camellia hybrids 'Winter's Beauty' and 'Twilight Glow' are two cold hardy varieties that could possibly grow outdoors in zone 6.

- Protect newly planted camellias during their first winter or two. Microfoam or frost blankets usually work well for this type of protection as does extra mulch.
- Soil amendments may be well rotted compost or pine bark. Use peat moss sparingly as it becomes too dense with time.