

# USDA Climate Zone Map

Can you plant or grow Camellias outdoors?

The USDA Climate zone map is beneficial in determining the cold hardiness of plants in certain regions. We often refer plants to certain climate zones. To lookup your climate zone, find your region on the map and then find the corresponding color on the chart under the map to see your zone number. The numbers under the color chart indicate the approximate minimum temperatures your area experiences.

## Camellia Belt Climate zone 8 and 9

Very favorable for planting outdoors

## Zone 10

Suitable for growing some varieties in the ground, but mainly in containers.

## Intermediate - Zone 7

Some varieties outdoors in protected areas, or grown outdoors in warmer weather, indoors in very cold weather

## Extremely Cold - 6 and 5

Outdoors in warmer weather, indoors in very cold weather, could possibly damage or kill plants outdoors during cold weather.

## Zones 1-4

Outdoors in warmer weather, indoors in cold weather—will not tolerate outdoor temps

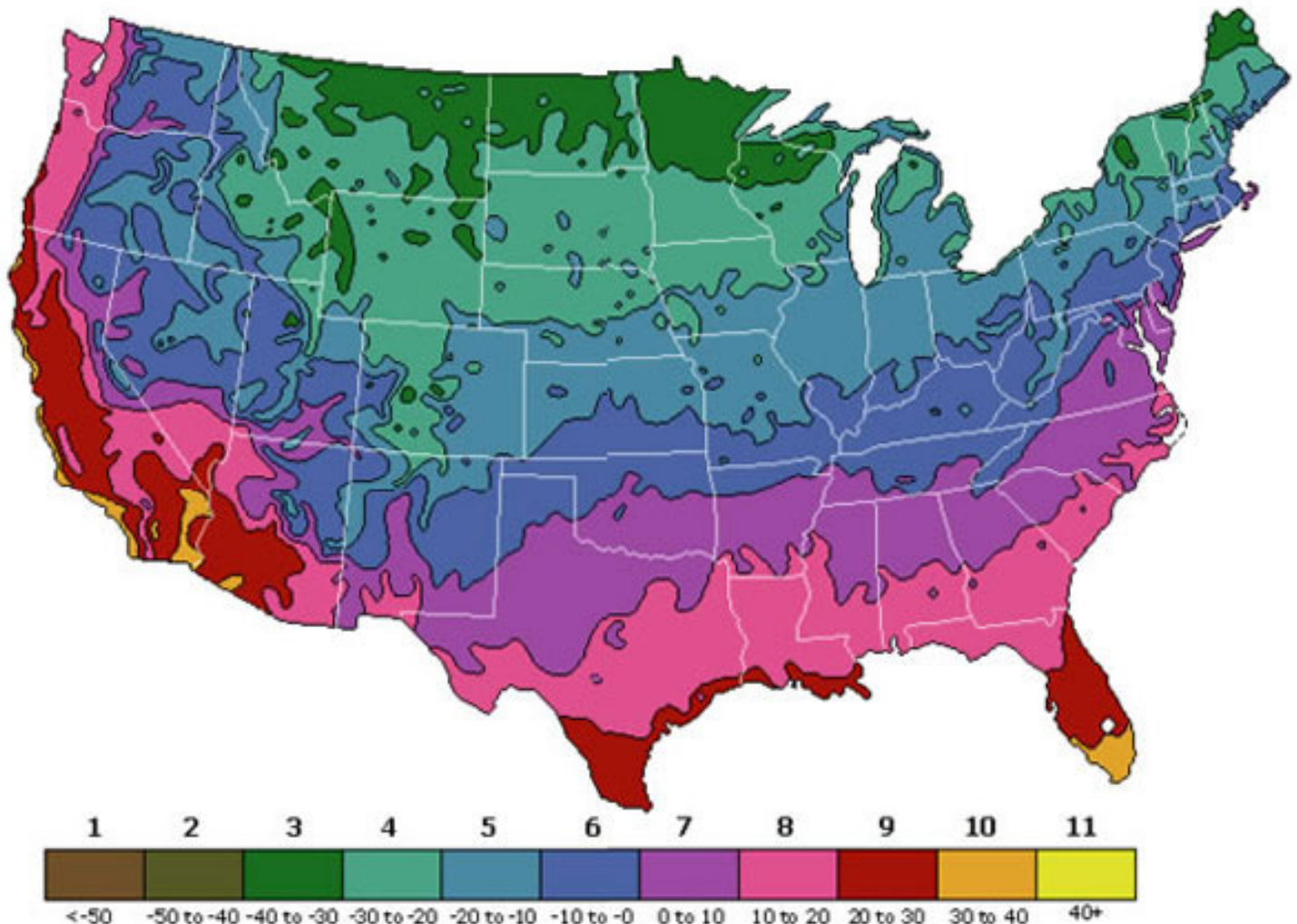


Chart shows minimum temperatures during cold months

# Planting Camellias Outdoors In Moderate Climates

Camellias can be planted outdoors in milder climates. A part-sun part-shade environment works best and camellias should be protected from afternoon sun. They are not as sensitive to cold weather as most plants can be and have been known to grow as far north as Climate zone 7 and even some warmer parts of zone 6. The main thing to keep in mind with Camellia plants is that they absolutely will not tolerate wet feet or planting too deeply.

Before planting outdoors, make sure you find the perfect location. Part sun/shade or filtered sun is the best light for camellias of all types. Evergreen or deciduous trees with a high canopy provide excellent shade from intense summer sun and are an excellent choice. Also trees that drop leaves such as Elms, or Pines provide a much needed organic mulch that over time will provide your plants with nutrients as well as protection from drought and cold.

If you are going to be watering with an irrigation system, make the proper adjustments or add additional nozzles or heads to provide water to your new planting. This is a seen a lot easier before you plant, so turn on your system, and see what you will need for the spot.

Camellias like a very well draining soil that will hold some moisture, but not wet or mucky that contains organic matter. (decomposed leaves etc.) much like you would find in a forest setting where leaves and debris compost down for a very rich, but moist soil.

For very sandy soil, you can add peat or compost to add more organic matter. For clay soils, adding a soil conditioner (usually a finely ground aged bark matter) will break up the clay and provide better oxygen and moisture to the roots.

Your garden soil also needs to be acid. Usually you will find acid soils in areas where organic matter such as composted leaves have fallen. But to be sure, have your soil tested. It's much easier to correct an issue at



Camellia sasanqua 'Our Linda' in the garden

the beginning instead of having plants that perform poorly from the start. The ideal pH range for camellias is 5.5 to 6.5. Improper pH ranges can cause nutrient deficiencies resulting in poor or no new growth, spindly plants, leaf loss, yellowing leaves, poor bud development, disease, insect infections and if left untreated, death of the plant.

## Planting of Camellias outdoors

Things you may need:

*Shovel*

*Hand Trowel*

*Axe or loppers for cutting roots in soil*

*Soil amendments (peat, sand, or compost)*

*Mulch*

- Begin by preparing the site for your camellia.
- Rake back any existing mulch
- Dig a hole about twice as wide and deep as your container removing the soil that will be used as back fill when you plant. If you are planting on a slope, make a well around the lowest part of the slope to keep water from running off as fast.
- Amend the soil with whatever matter you may need (Peat, soil or compost or material for pH correc-