

Watering, Humidity & Mulches

Water

Water is a necessary nutrient and the number one cause of camellia failure if not provided or if given too much. When you plant camellias, whether in the ground or in containers, make sure the soil drains properly and that your plants receive adequate moisture. If you plant outdoors and have an irrigation system, make sure the system provides adequate irrigation and does not run off or is blocked by other plants. Also, new plants will need to have special attention until they get established. They will dry out more quickly than plants that have established themselves. Make sure water does not puddle or stand around plants. Camellias will not tolerate wet soils or mucky soils that do not drain properly.



Humidity

Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air. Camellia plants like a slightly humid environment, but not enough that keeps the foliage wet. Camellia can do well in a variety of climates - but do best with humidity levels that are 60-70%.

Mulch

Mulching is a great way to keep moisture loss at a minimum and also protects the roots against extreme cold or heat. Mulch needs to provide organic matter to be not only a moisture barrier but to provide nutrients to the soil as it breaks down. Rubber mulch does not break down and does nothing for your plants.

Types of Mulches



Bark mulches are excellent barriers to weeds and moisture loss through heat and can help protect roots from winter damage as well



Pine straw, leaves, compost and bark all break down into vital nutrients that the plants will absorb