

Welcome!

Bates Nursery Botanical Boot Camp
Educational Webinar Series



Our new baby boy Elijah!

-Photo thanks to our resident social media
expert Annora McGarry

Camellias 101

With Ben Trest

November 5, 2020

Please **mute** your microphone

We will take questions after the lecture via the **chat box**

Thank you for being understanding as we are starting our
webinar series on Zoom!

Camellias 101

Aka “winter rose”
feat. Stewartia



Selection and Care



What's the big deal about Camellias?

- Classic garden plant prized for blooms and foliage
 - Large, glossy evergreen leaves
 - Showy blooms during cooler months
 - Easy care once established
- Big with collectors and enthusiasts
 - One of the most captive bred plants, meaning hundreds of varieties
 - Easy to find and grow
 - American Camellia Society actively catalogs new varieties every year! (30,000+ currently)
- Tea Culture
 - Most teas come from *Camellia sinensis*, dating back thousands of years
 - Harvest your own tea leaves, and enjoy fragrant blooms that honey bees love!



History and Modern Use

- Camelia History
 - All Camellia thought to be from the orient, China and Japan
 - Called 'Tsubaki' in Japan or "Tree with Shining Leaves"
 - *C. sinensis* used for tea in China since 1700 B.C., thought to have arrived in London around 1650 B.C.
 - Cultivation took off in England and became popular in the states during the 20th century
 - First public camelia show in the US was in 1932 near Macon, GA.
- Modern Cultivation
 - Today about 250 different species are reported
 - ACS reports over 30,000 cultivars introduced
 - 56 cultivars named in 2020 alone!
 - American Camellia Society is a great resource, they maintain a garden in Fort Valley, GA
 - Tea now being produced in the USA, one example is the Fairhope Tea Plantation in Alabama



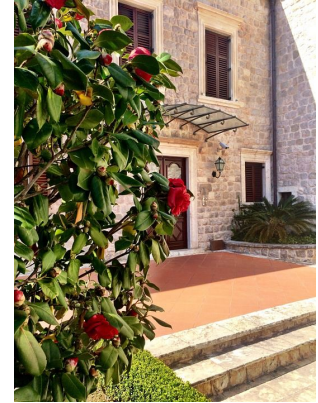
Photo: Ed Jackson



Rule of Thumb:
Plant Camellia in a
protected location
with partial sun, near
a structure is ideal.

Using Camellia in the Garden

- Foundation Planting
 - Camellia lends itself to planting near or around buildings
 - Avoid East facing walls as they may get too hot
 - Can be used under windows or on corners by pruning differently
 - Provides protection from winter winds and high sun exposure
- As an Accent Plant
 - May be used as a centerpiece or focal point of garden beds
 - Use in protected beds, near a tree or wall
 - Large shrub size and evergreen leaves will provide year-round interest
- In a Pot
 - Use camellia sparingly in pots
 - Be cautious of cold temps in pots and over/under watering
 - Best on porch, or somewhere they can be brought inside over winter



Planting and Care

- Planting tips:

- Choose a location close to a structure without standing water.
- Dig hole twice the width of the pot, minimum.
- Amend the soil to lighten and improve drainage, **Earthmix Landscape** or @ 50% is recommended.
- Plant with the surface roots at or above soil level
- Back-fill the amended soil mixture into hole
- Initially water the shrub in heavily

- Care/Upkeep:

- Continue to water as needed
- Water heavily then allow soil to dry before next soaking (more water in the summer)
- Prune only as needed or to shape, ideally just after blooming
- Fertilize in fall or spring, avoid high nitrogen, **Espoma Holly Tone** works well
- Check periodically for insect and disease issues, treat or prune out damage branches
 - Main concerns with camelia are leaf spot/root rot and scale insects

Rule of Thumb:
Prune less than 30%,
and just after flowering
(winter/spring).

Pruning

- Avoid cutting back in spring before frost
- Try to keep pruning under 30% of plant
- Use sharp pruners and sterilize to avoid spreading disease
- Prune just above buds/nodes
- Shrubs
 - Let plant grow to desired size then maintain with yearly pruning
 - May need occasional trimming of older branches to reduce size
- Espalier Topiary
 - As camelia grows fasten to a fence or trellis
 - Trim yearly to keep tidy to structure
 - If branches die, prune back to main branch
- Tree Form Topiary
 - Trim off excess growth yearly to maintain shape
 - Prune off any suckers that occur at base of plant



Selecting Varieties!

- Camellia japonica
 - Nov-April blooms
 - Large shrub at 10-15' (30' in the wild)
 - Dense pyramidal shape
 - Over 2,000 cultivars
 - Most not fragrant

Jerry Hill (japonica)



Yuletide (sasanqua)



Kanjiro (sasanqua)

- Camellia sasanqua

- Blooms earlier than C. japonica, Sept-Dec
- Medium sized shrub at 6-10'
- Smaller leaves than C. japonica
- Most not fragrant

April Dawn (japonica)



Spring's Promise (japonica)



Marge Miller (sasanqua)

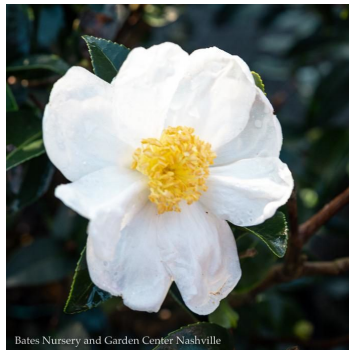


Selecting Varieties -Continued-

- Camellia sinensis
 - The 'tea' camellia
 - Medium shrub size 6-10'
 - Blooms early fall Sept-Dec
 - Hardier than other species
 - Fragrant flowers
 - Underused



C. sinensis bloom (tea camellia)



Arctic Rose (hybrid)



Winter's Charm (hybrid)



Arctic Snow (hybrid)

- Camellia hybrids
 - Most hybrids bred for bloom time, hardiness, and fragrance
 - Ackerman Hybrids
 - Great selection for better cold hardiness (to -10)
 - Oct-Nov blooms
 - Most have "winter's" prefix (eg. winters interlude)
- C. oleifera - 'tea oil' camelia, not widely used except for hybrids

Rule of Thumb:
Fertilize Camellia
spring and fall with an
evergreen fertilizer,
like Holly Tone.

Special mention: Stewartia

- *Stewartia pseudocamellia*
 - In the camellia plant family (tea family) Theaceae
 - Mostly from Asia, however *S. ovata* and *S. malacodendron* is native to Southern Appalachia also called “summer dogwood”
 - More cold tolerant than camellias
 - Deciduous, loses leaves in fall, provides an orange to red fall color
 - Blooms look very close to camellia, 4” wide and white in summer
 - Will get the size of a small tree, slowly. Very open and elegant
 - Bark will become roughly textured, cinnamon brown with age
 - Great specimen or collectors plant
- *Franklinia alatamaha*
 - Another relative of camellia (Theaceae family) once native to the states
 - Was once found native to North America, now only found in cultivation
 - Rare to find



Next Topic

For the Birds: Winter Planting to
Attract Birds to Your Garden

With Joy Boven

Tuesday, November 10



Thank You!

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Questions?

Feel free to bring your questions with you to Bates Nursery, our
Landscape Specialists will be happy to assist you!

Most information came from:

The American Camellia Society @ <https://www.americancamellias.com>

CamToo Nurseries @ <https://camtoocamellia.com>

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael A. Dirr

