

# Growing for Auckland

## Camellias

Our recommended camellia varieties for Auckland and top tips for growing and caring for camellias.



## Camellias for Auckland

At the Auckland Botanic Gardens, we trial a variety of camellias to identify the best plants for Auckland conditions.

Many camellias are prone to petal blight, a disease which turns flowers brown leading to premature flower drop.

We are researching petal blight and run a breeding programme to develop disease resistant cultivars.

Through our trials and breeding programme, we recommend camellias that grow well in Auckland and are less likely to be affected by petal blight.

## Great for small spaces



All of the camellias in this leaflet are suitable for growing in small gardens.

However, *camellia sasanquas* grow vigorously and require careful pruning to maintain a smaller shape.

## What you need

- A sunny or partially shaded garden.
- Well-drained soil.
- A camellia to suit your purpose (hedging, shelter, container, specimen or tree).

## What to do

- Planting in autumn is best.
- Prep the garden - work compost into the soil before planting.
- Apply a base dressing of general fertiliser or blood and bone to the soil before planting – rake it into the soil.
- Apply an organic mulch after planting, and top up annually to benefit soil health, moisture retention and weed suppression.
- Prune annually for size and to maintain an open shape.

## Pruning tips

- Prune immediately after flowering, before new growth begins.
- Remove branches within 30cm of the ground.
- Remove weak and internal crossing branches.
- Shorten or remove other branches and always prune to an outward facing bud, to shape and to open out the plant.
- Remove or shorten laterals which are thickening into heavy branches to encourage a good floral display.

### Contact

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## A winter favourite

Camellias are long lived evergreen shrubs with different types flowering from autumn to spring. At a time of year when things can get a little grey, camellias bring a burst of colour to a garden.

The flowers of some species and cultivars are scented. They vary from low growing spreading plants to small trees and can be used for hedges, as specimens, espaliers and as container plants.

The Auckland Botanic Gardens boasts the largest Camellia collection in New Zealand, showcasing a range of plants suitable for Auckland conditions.

## Garden use

### Species

Most species produce small flowers, some of which are fragrant. Some species do produce a larger flower and also include yellow coloured blooms.

### Modern hybrids

These are based on small-leaved species and vary greatly in size and habit. Smaller cultivars are suitable for containers, others are suited to hedging and as espaliers and some make lovely trees.

### Autumn flowering

The first to flower, commencing in early autumn and finishing in winter. A hardy plant, tolerant of full sun and wind, suitable for screens and hedging. They are less prone to petal blight.

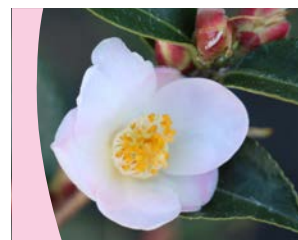
### Winter/spring flowering

Flowers in a range of forms, shapes and colours appear mainly in early winter to spring. Large glossy foliaged plants, they are suited to containers and produce excellent cut flowers. Tolerant of dappled light or sun, but prefers partial shade for part of the day.

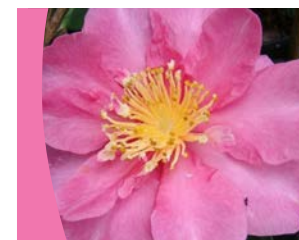
## Recommended camellias for Auckland gardens



***Camellia transnokoensis***  
A pretty evergreen with small leaves and upright growth habit. Ideal for screening or hedges, it grows to 5m x 2m.



***Camellia lutchuensis* hybrid 'Fairy Blush'**  
Small fragrant pink flowers. Flowers for a long time. Great for small courtyards or pots.



***Camellia sasanqua* 'Paradise Belinda'**<sup>^</sup>  
Single pink flowers from autumn into winter. Great for hedging.



***Camellia sasanqua* 'Paradise Helen'** <sup>^</sup>  
Grows rapidly and is ideal for hedging, topiary, containers or as a specimen shrub.



***Camellia transnokoensis* hybrid 'Transpink'**  
Masses of tiny fragrant single pink flowers from winter to spring. New foliage is reddish. Dense, upright growth.



***Camellia pitardii* hybrid 'Festival of Lights'**  
Upright growth habit, small glossy green leaves. Great in a pot or as a bonsai plant. Grows to 2m x 1.5m.



***Camellia sasanqua* x *fraterna* 'Yoimachi'**  
Slender upright growth habit. Fragrant miniature white flowers with pink margins, can flower for up to 6 months.



***Camellia japonica* 'Roger Hall'**  
A vigorous compact upright evergreen shrub with large bright red flowers. Suitable for containers, courtyards, features and hedging.



***Camellia* x *pitardii* hybrid 'Adorable'**  
A vigorous, upright evergreen shrub with glossy green leaves and bright pink spring. Plant in well-drained acid soil.



***Camellia sasanqua* 'Early Pearly'**  
Double white blooms from early autumn to early winter. Upright and vigorous habit, growing to 2m x 1.5m.



***Camellia japonica* 'Takanini'**  
Vigorous upright growing evergreen shrub. Great hedge, specimen tree or in a pot. Grows to 3m x 2m. Early flowering for up to 5 months.



***Camellia japonica* 'Wildfire'**  
A vigorous upright growth habit with semi-double orange-red glowing flowers, mainly in winter. Grows to 2m x 1.5m.