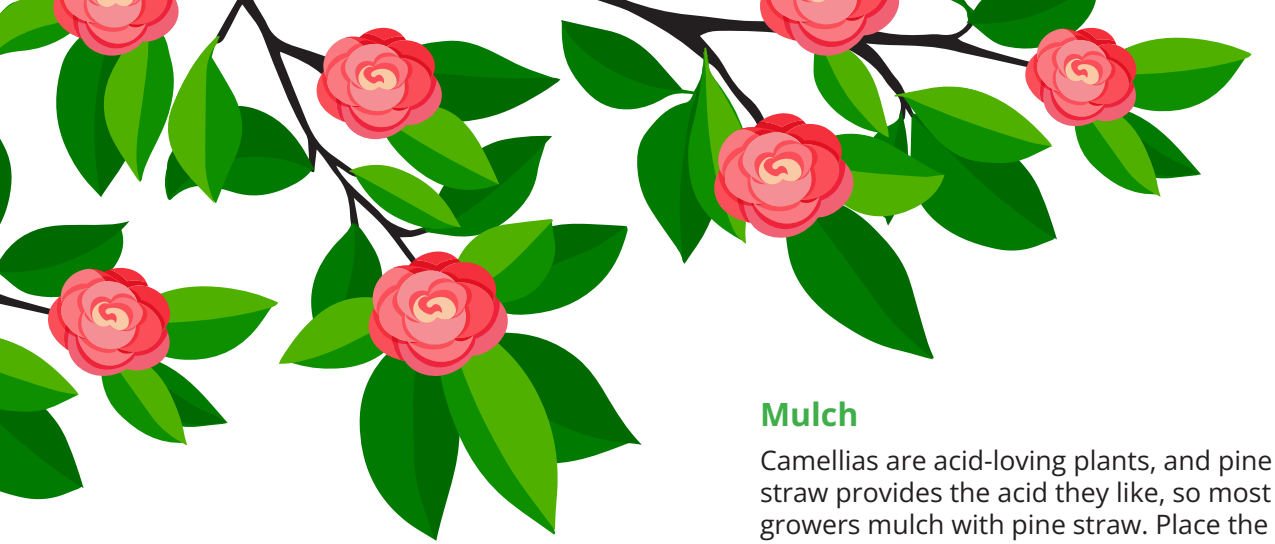


Fertilizer



Camellias may be fertilized three times a year. However, they do not need to be. One to two times a year is sufficient. Apply fertilizer in March after blooming stops and then if you wish in May and July. Do not fertilizer later than July because the new growth the fertilizer stimulates may not have time to harden off before the first freeze. You can use Azalea & Camellia fertilizers on established camellias or 12-4-8 on all camellias. Read directions and apply fertilizer as recommended based on the size of the plant. Water camellias before and after application.

Pruning



Prune away dead and diseased limbs after the camellia has stopped blooming in March or April. Remove branches that cross and rub against each other. Remove limbs that touch the ground or the part of the limb that touches the ground. The part that touches the ground will act as a vector to bring bugs and diseases up into the plant. Remove branches to open up the center of the plant to allow some light and air to pass through. This is healthier for the camellia.

Mulch



Camellias are acid-loving plants, and pine straw provides the acid they like, so most growers mulch with pine straw. Place the mulch 2 to 3 inches deep out to the drip line and a good 10 inches away from the base of the plant. Do not pile up pine straw around the base (volcano-like). This holds in moisture and contributes to root rot.

Pick up Spent Blooms



It is recommended that you pick up spent blooms because, if left to rot, the fungus it produces will infect and reinfect the plant with Camellia Flower Blight.

Pests and Diseases



Camellias that are correctly cared for are fairly problem-free. However, if you should identify scale, mites, or fungus, it is recommended that you apply a multi-purpose insecticide/miticide/fungicide oil every two weeks for three or more applications.

Propagation



The most common ways to propagate camellias and get an exact duplicate of the mother plant are through grafting, air layering, and cuttings. Planting seeds is easy and successful. However, it will not be an exact match to the mother plant.

Camellia Month-by-Month Calendar of Care

TALLAHASSEE CAMELLIA SOCIETY



FOUNDED 1947

Tallahassee Camellia Society

The Tallahassee Camellia Society is a non-profit educational organization to encourage the culture of Camellias and shall educate and inform members and the public of the history, growing, propagation, exhibiting, and judging of camellias.

www.TallahasseeCamelliaSociety.com

www.AmericanCamelliaSociety.com

Camellia Month-by-Month Calendar of Care



January

- Enjoy your camellias as they are blooming.
- Pick up and remove all dead blooms. Put them in a trash container.
- Water if dry to get the best blooms possible.

February

- If you wish to propagate your camellias, through grafting, now is the time to take scions and graft.
- Continue to pick up and remove all dead blooms and put them in a trash container.
- This is a good time to photograph your camellias and to visit Maclay Gardens.

March

- The camellias should be finishing up blooming now. If they have stopped it is safe to begin pruning.
- Check for diseases or insects. If scale or insects are present, spray with insecticide/fungicide/miticide oil.
- Fertilize with 12-4-8 or Azalea/Camellia Fertilizer. Water in after applying.

April

- If your camellias have stopped blooming, now is the time to prune and fertilize. You can prune later but you will cut off buds and you've caused the tree to waste energy forming the pruned buds.

May

- Mulch with pine straw 2 to 4 inches now if you did not when you pruned. Do not pile up pine straw or any mulch around the base of the tree. Move it back from the base of the tree 6 to 10 inches.
- If you wish to propagate your camellias through air layering, now is the time to air layer.
- Optional to fertilize a second time.

June

- You will need to water if it is hot and dry.

July

- It is now too late to prune as the buds have set.
- If you wish to propagate any of your camellias using cuttings, now is the time to take those cuttings from the new growth.
- This is the last time this year to safely add fertilizer if you wish.

August

- You will need to water if it is hot and dry.
- Seed pods should be reaching maturity, collect and plant if desired.
- Start watching for spider mites over the next few months and spray with an oil-based insecticide.

September

- If you wish to show blooms this fall, now is the time to begin gibbing. You can repeat gibbing every other week through November. If you want bigger blooms you can remove all but one bud per terminal end of a branch.
- Sasanqua camellias should begin blooming now.

October

- Continue gibbing if desired. Check your air layers if you air layered. They can be safely removed from the mother plant now.
- Now is a good time to plant new camellias.

November

- Continue gibbing throughout the blooming season if desired.
- Remove all air layers if you have not already.
- Plant new camellias.
- Japonica camellias may begin blooming now.

December

- It is a good time to spray for scale and insects if problems are observed.
- Enjoy your camellias through the holidays by floating them in bowls or dipping them in wax.