



Camellia japonica



Height	5 – 8 m
Width	3-4m
Crown	ovoid / egg-shaped, dark, dense crown
Bark and branches	twigs green, bark grey-brown to grey, smooth
Leaf	evergreen, ovate to elliptical, 5-10 cm long, glossy dark green
Flowers	axillary, single or in pairs, 5-12.5 cm, in many colours, November-April
Fruits	woody capsule, dark green, later lignified brown
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	clayed soil, loamy soil, sandy soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	7b (-14,9 to -12,3 °C)
Wind resistance	good, no sea wind
Other resistances	can withstand wind
Application	small gardens, patio gardens
Shape	clearstem tree

The well-known *Camellia japonica* is an evergreen large shrub to small tree. In China, old trees of 10-12 m in height are known, but in our climate they rarely grow taller than 5-8 m. The crown is regularly pyramidal. Later in life, the crown will stretch more making it more oval-pyramidal. The shiny dark green leaves are evergreen and make a great background for the colourful flowers. There is a huge variety of flowers in *C. japonica*. In terms of shape, the flowers range from single, with 5-7 petals, to fully filled with more than 50 petals. There are also cultivars with a pompon of small petals in the heart and semi-filled flowers with a heart of very narrow petals. Flower colours range from pure white, creamy yellow, pink, purple red, orange red to deep red. There are also cultivars with variegated flowers in which the petals are bicoloured striped or spotted. Flowering time also varies widely. There are cultivars that start flowering as early as November, but also cultivars whose last flowers open in April. It is an easy tree that requires well-drained but sufficiently moist soil. Avoid calcareous soil; growth will be greatly reduced and the leaves will turn yellow. Can be planted in full sun, but morning sun can damage the flowers, after night frosts. Best if the north and east sides of the tree are slightly screened.