



Camellia sasanqua



Height	2 – 5 m
Width	2-3m
Crown	ovoid / egg-shaped, dark, dense crown
Bark and branches	twigs reddish brown to green, bark greyish brown to grey, smooth
Leaf	evergreen, ovate to elliptical, 3-7.5 cm long, glossy dark green
Flowers	axillary, single or in pairs, 5-7.5 cm, in many colours, September-December
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 evergreen *Camellia sasanqua* usually grows from a dense shrub form into a small tree. The crown is regularly pyramidal and will stretch more in older trees, becoming more oval-pyramidal. The shiny dark green leaves are evergreen and distinctly smaller than in *C. japonica*. Due to the denser branching, *C. sasanqua* has a fuller appearance than *C. japonica*. A clear difference between these two species is that the petioles of *C. sasanqua* are hairy. In *C. japonica* they are bare. Flowering is in autumn to early winter, clearly earlier in the season than *C. japonica*. Again, the variation in flower colours and flower shapes is enormous; from single, with 5-7 petals, to fully filled. There are also cultivars with a pompon of small petals in the heart. Flower colours range from pure white, cream, pink, purplish red to deep red. The earliest cultivars of *C. sasanqua* start flowering in September, in the latest flowering cultivars the flowers open in December.

Camellia sasanqua, apart from its differences, is best thought of as a slightly stockier version of *C. japonica*. 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 grow in full sun, but in morning sun, after night frosts, the flowers may be damaged. Best if the north and east sides of the tree are slightly screened.