



Sasanqua Camellias



Camellia 'Yuletide'

Autumn is the perfect time to be thinking of and planting camellias - Sasanqua Camellias that is - the quiet cousins of the more common Japonica varieties.

The Sasanqua originates from the warmer areas of southern Japan, and consequently will tolerate both sunshine and shade, and cool and quite hot temperatures, making them a very useful and versatile plant for Melbourne and the surrounding areas.

Their growing popularity is rightfully justified, as their permanent dark green, glossy foliage makes them excellent tub specimens, as well as beautiful garden grown shrubs.

Their fine broad branches make some varieties suitable for espaliering (training along a wall) for use in narrow areas, while other varieties can be clipped and used as hedges. They can also be used in the ever popular topiary as standards or magnificent columns or cones etc.

Well drained, neutral to slightly acid soil or potting mix is preferred. They should be kept watered over summer while forming buds for their autumn and winter blooms. Feeding in early spring and autumn will produce lush new growth while encouraging the formation of healthy flower buds.

Pruning to shape, if necessary, is best undertaken immediately after flowering and this is a good time for repotting or moving the plant if needed. The shallow root system makes this a relatively easy job.

If all of this is not enough to convince you to put one, or several Sasanqua Camellias in your garden, consider the delicate soft, single and double blooms ranging from white through pinks to dark red, and that must be justification to try at least one.

Some of the more popular varieties are:

- Beatrice Emily - informal double white with pink edges
- Fujino mine - large double white
- Edna Butler - single to semi - double silvery soft pink
- Mine no yuki - semi - double white
- Setsugeka - single white with yellow stamens
- Yuletide - single dark red with yellow stamens



Camellia 'Setsugeka'

Examples of standard sasanquas, and espaliered specimens can be seen at Town & Country Gardens, where the experienced staff will be happy to help you select the right one for your specific needs.