

Camellia sinensis

The Tea Plant

Camellia sinensis is not just for tea. It is a wonderful addition to any garden because of its "camellia family" characteristics. Much unlike most of its famous camellia cousins, Camellia japonica and Camellia sasanqua, Camellia sinensis flowers are small, simple and some are even fragrant. Late summer sprays of blossoms adorn the evergreen plants in colors of white or pink depending on the variety. The many diverse leaf textures and plant sizes all offer something special to your garden as even without blooms, the plants are very attractive.

Camellia sinensis is an evergreen ornamental shrub that is easy to maintain, can tolerate a wide climate range. It is native to China, Japan & Southeast Asia. The many types of sinensis cultivars available can vary in growth habits and sizes, so they can fit into a wide range of locations.

Growing Season

Camellia sinensis has an active growing season that begins in late April or early May and extends through September in climate zones 8. In colder zones like 6 and 7, the growing season could be shorter and in warmer zones like 9 and 10, it could be longer.



Camellia sinensis white flowers

Blooming Season

Camellia sinensis blooms during the late summer to early fall. Blooms appear in sprays of white or pink, depending on the variety, all up and down the stems to make a beautiful display in your garden. The blooms are semi fragrant and they do attract bees and butterflies.

Although Camellia sinensis is in the camellia family, they have very unique growing and cultural requirements that are very different from the ornamental blooming camellias.



Top and below Camellia sinensis 'Old Savannah Tea'