

JAPANESE FLOWERING SCREENS

Sasanqua Camellias are a great choice for screens and hedges.

The sasanqua Camellia is native to Japan and has a fascinating history. Sasanquas have been cultivated there for centuries, and many ancient specimens can be found decorating temple gardens. Sasanquas were utilised to make a lower grade of tea and Camellia oil was extracted from the seed for cooking, lighting and cosmetic purposes. Dutch traders are thought to have brought the first sasanqua plants to Europe in the late 1860s.

Sasanqua Camellias are one of the standout performers in the Autumn garden providing an abundance of showy flowers well into Winter. While sasanqua flowers aren't as long lasting as the Camellia japonica varieties, they do flower in great profusion and the carpet of fallen petals is a delight to behold.

Sasanqua Camellias are real screen stars. Growing from 1.5m to 4m in height, their naturally tall and spreading habit makes them perfect for privacy screening and hedging. They're just the thing for planting along the fence or down those difficult, narrow strips between the side of the house and the fence. When planting a sasanqua screen or hedge use all the same variety to give uniform growth and plant at spacings of about 1m apart.

Some suggested sasanqua Camellia varieties for screens and hedging include:

Chansonette (pink with lavender tones), Hiryu (classic deep cerise), Jennifer Susan (vigorous, semi-double pink), Plantation Pink (large, single flowers of soft pink), Rose Ann (deep rose pink), Setsugekka (classic, pure white) and Yuletide (glowing red blooms, ideal for low borders, pots and bonsai).

Sasanquas are more sun tolerant than other Camellias, so they can be used in a wider variety of positions. They favour morning sun and afternoon shade and semi-shaded areas. They can also be grown successfully in full sun positions provided they are watered daily during the warmer months and a thick layer of moisture conserving mulch is applied. These versatile Camellias make attractive feature shrubs in the garden or planted in large pots and tubs. They are also excellent espalier subjects for walls and fences.

Secrets to Camellia success

The key to growing successful Camellias in Perth is getting your soil right. Camellias prefer slightly acidic soils, so to grow them successfully in Perth's limey sands, it's essential to improve the planting soil by adding generous amounts of acidic material like Dawson's Organic Soil Improver and pine fines. Camellias have naturally shallow and fibrous root systems, so they make ideal container plants and look particularly attractive in glazed pots. When potting Camellias use Dawson's Premium Potting Mix for best results.

For further expert Camellia growing tips, collect your free copy of Dawson's Camellia and Azalea Catalogue, available from late Autumn or view online at www.dawsonsgardenworld.com.au

Camellia
Plantation
Pink



Camellia
Chansonette

Camellia
Setsugekka

Camellia
Sasanqua
Miy