



Garden Scoop

Camellias

BY K. S. Kennen



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Camellias, originally from Asia, have been a part of the southern garden since their introduction to the United States in 1797. This evergreen shrub or small tree can reach up to 25 feet. Having them in your garden adds color to your winter landscape since they are one of the few plants that bloom in the fall and winter. Having Sasanqua type camellias, that bloom from October to December, along with *Camellia japonica* types, which bloom from December to March, means you will have the beautiful blooms for half the year.

The best time to plant camellias is from November to February so the plant's roots will have time to establish before the summer's heat. It is best if the soil is slightly acidic, between 5.0 and 6.5 and be well-drained with high organic matter. They will do best if planted in a location where they are sheltered from the afternoon sun and be partially sheltered the other hours. Be sure the root ball is one to two inches above the soil line and that there is mulch added around the root system to help maintain moisture and protect the roots from excessive heat. Water minimally with one gallon of water every week until established. Once established they are fairly drought tolerant but need irrigation of one inch every 10 to 12 days during long periods of drought. Fertilizing once or twice a year should be sufficient. Use fertilizer with equal amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous. Apply half a pound of 12-4-12 or 15-5-15 (or similar fertilizer) per 100 square feet in spring and/or early summer.



Bella Romana – *Camellia japonica*



Camellia sasanqua

Two of the most planted varieties are the *Camellia japonica* and *sasanqua*. *Camellia japonica* has larger leaves and more spectacular flowers. *Camellia sasanqua* has smaller leaves and simpler flowers, but a lot more blooms on the plant. While Japanese camellias (*C. japonica*, Zones 7–9) are considered an icon in southern gardens with their large flowers that bloom during winter months, sasanqua camellias can be more flexible. They tolerate more sun, have varieties that are smaller in height, and flower throughout the fall with a wonderful range of colors.

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/camellias.html>

<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/sasanqua-camellias.html>



Lake County MGCV Mission Statement

The mission of UF/IFAS Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers is to assist extension agents by providing horticultural education programs and current research-based information to the public through plant clinics, community outreach and Discovery Gardens.

For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office lakemg.ifas@ufl.edu •

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Camellia Varieties for Central Florida

This is such a popular flower that societies exist to compare and compete in shows with their beautiful, outstanding blooms grown in their own gardens. Following is a list of some you could consider. A few have to be searched for and can be hard to find.

Variety	Flower Color	Season of Flower	Size and Form	Plant Form	Growth Rate	Comments
Carter's Sunburst	Deep Pink	Early to late	Large to very large	Spreading	Medium	Diverse cultures, double bloom
Charlie Bettes	White	Early	Large to very large	Compact	Vigorous	Deep yellow stamens, semi-double
Debutante	Light Pink	Early to midseason	Medium full peony	Upright	Vigorous	Heirloom, leaf drop when young
Delores Edwards	Light orchid pink	Early to midseason	Large semi-double to peony	Upright	Medium	Non-reticulata hybrid
Early Autumn	Lavender Rose	Early to midseason	Medium, Formal double	Upright	Medium	One of earliest Camellias to bloom
Gigantea	Red marbled white	Midseason	Large to very large peony	Open	Vigorous	Hard to find, extremely large flowers
High Fragrance	Ivory pink, rose edges	Midseason	Medium, peony	Open	Vigorous	Very fragrant
Kramer's Supreme	Red	Midseason	Large to very large	Compact Upright	Vigorous	Fragrant
Lady Clare	Dark pink	Early to midseason	Large, semi-double	Dense	Vigorous	Old classic; durable
Mathotiana	Red	Midseason to late	Large to very large	Compact Upright	Vigorous	Heirloom with different colors and flower forms
Mrs.D.W. Davis	Blush Pink	Midseason	Very large semi-double	Compact Upright	Vigorous	Cultivars exist
Pink Perfection	Shell Pink	Early to late	Small, formal double	Upright	Vigorous	Heirloom, difficult to establish
Pope John XXII	White	Midseason	Medium to large, formal double	Upright	Vigorous	Old Cultivar; hard to find
Professor Sargent	Red	Midseason	Medium	Compact Upright	Vigorous	Withstands direct sun
Taylor's Perfection	Light Pink	Midseason to late	Very Large, Semi-double	Open, Upright	Average	Non-reticulata hybrid

What's Cooking? KALE A WINTER CROP

by Karen S. Kennen. MGV

Kale is a dark, leafy green vegetable grown during the winter months. It is often called super food because it has iron, calcium, and vitamins A, C, and K. Often there is concern about the bitter taste of this vegetable but there are some things that can be done when prepping the vegetable to get rid of a lot of the bitterness.

1. Cut stems from the leaf and use only leafy sides of the leaf.
2. Cut leaf into small pieces
3. Massage the kale for a few minutes with lemon and olive oil mixture to break down the leaf fiber



Braised Kale

Ingredients

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 10 cups chopped kale, divided
- ½ cup fat-free, less-sodium chicken broth, divided
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon crushed red pepper
- ⅛ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 bacon slices, cooked and crumbled
- 6 lemon wedges

Directions:

- Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat.
- Add onion to pan; sauté 6 minutes or until onion is tender and begins to brown.
- Add 5 cups kale, 1/4 cup broth, salt, and peppers to pan.
- Cover, reduce heat, and cook 4 minutes.
- Add remaining 5 cups kale and remaining 1/4 cup broth to pan.
- Cover and cook 16 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.
- Sprinkle with bacon.

Serve with lemon wedges.



By Jaime Harder, MA, RD
Recipe by Cooking Light January 2008

Plant Clinic Clatter

By R. Doherty, MGV



DEAR MASTER GARDENER: I would like to plant a Camellia, but am unsure when to plant, which varieties to plant, and would like some guidance.

DEAR HOMEOWNER: I am happy to help you with your selection and instructions on Camellias. There are two types of cultivars, *Camellia sasanqua* and *Camellia japonica*. Camellias like well-drained, moist soils with an acidic pH (5-6.5) and high in organic matter. They do well as container plants and need fertilization 2 times a year (March & June) with 12-4-12 or 15-5-15 (1 cup around drip line). Plant from November to February. When needed, prune before July 4th.

Here is a comparison of these cultivars:

	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	<i>Camellia japonica</i>
Height/Width	Height: 4-15 ft Width: 5-7 ft Small tree, shrub, or compact forms	Height: 6-12 ft. Width: 6-10 ft. Large upright growing shrubs
Lighting	Full sun (early morning best) to partial shade	Partial to Full Shade Full/direct sun will scald leaves/blooms
Growing tips	Mulch 2-4" after planting to help maintain moisture.	
Flowers	Small, 1.5-4" diameter Single, semi-double and double petal Fragrant	Med-Large, 3-5" diameter
Bloom Period	Oct-Dec	Late Dec-March, early April
Zone 9 (https://www.gardenia.net/compare-plants/camellias)	'Betty Ridley', 'Bonnie Marie', 'Cinnamon Cindy' 'Fragrant Pink', 'Minato-No-Akebono', 'Pink Icicle', 'Polar Ice', 'Scentous', 'Snow Flurry', 'Sparkling Burgundy', 'Spring Mist' 'Sweet Emily Kate', 'Winter's Charm', 'Winter's interlude', 'Winter's Rose', 'Winter's Star'	'Alba Plena', 'Annie Wylam', 'Apple Blossom', 'April Blush', 'April Remembered', 'April Rose', 'Australis', 'Carter's Sunburnt', 'Drama Girl'

Resources: EDIS [Camellias, CIR461](#) | [Gardening Solutions](#) | Leu Gardens [Factsheet](#) | [A&M Ext Factsheet](#) | [American Camellia Society](#)

See Camellias: [Bob Wines Camellias](#) | UF [Wilmot Botanical](#) | [Leu Gardens Camellia Society](#)

Gardenia.net

See Camellias: [Bob Wines Camellias](#) | UF [Wilmot Botanical](#) | [Leu Gardens](#)



Pink Icicle



Winter's Star



Drama Girl

Anthurium

By Reggie Doherty

Anthurium Andraeanum with its heart-shaped, red bloom and deep green leaves makes a perfect Christmas plant if you want to have something other than the traditional poinsettia. Also known as Flamingo Flower, Pigtail Plant, Tailflower, Hawaiian Love Plant, and Tongue of Fire, this is a beautiful cousin to the *Spathiphyllum* family or Peace Lily. This epiphyte does very well indoors and outside, but be sure to bring indoors when below 60°F. The more indirect light they have, the more blooms they'll produce.

Light:	Bright indirect light indoors; 6 hours of dappled light if outdoors (no direct sun)
Water:	Water when soil is dry; likes humidity
Characteristics:	Shiny and dark green heart-shaped leaves; pores along leaf margins 2-3' tall and comes in dwarf variety
Flowers:	Bisexual flowers with spadix* are very showy. The heart-shaped flowers (or spathe*) are available in reds, pinks, lavender, or white and can last 6 to 8 weeks. Anthuriums require little care, and bloom almost continuously in good conditions
Pruning:	Remove dead and unsightly foliage at base of plant. Remove any faded or brown flowers.
Propagation:	By seed (produced by spadix pollination) or division of plants
Bugs:	Gnat, scale, mealy \bug (rare)
Diseases:	Leaf blight; bacterial wilt; fungus and water mold; black nose (see Disease link below)

Growing best in low-light conditions, *Anthurium* are striking with shiny dark green, oblong, heart-shaped leaves. The long-lasting, showy flower bracts come in shades of red, rose, pink, and white with a protruding pale yellow, tail-like flower spadix.

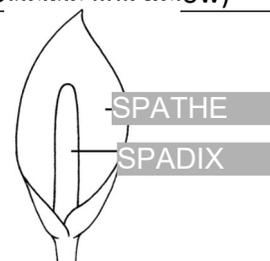


Photo by R. Doherty



Orange Hot



Tulip Purple
Photo D. Adamson

Useful links: [EDIS PP292/Diseases](#), [FPS42](#), | [Anthuriums](#) | [Seed propagation & Video](#)

Treemendous: Hollies

Jamie Daugherty, RHA

Deck the halls with boughs of holly... A common Christmas decoration, holly plants work well in many landscapes. There are several different varieties that grow in Florida. Let me introduce you to a few of them.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)

The largest of the hollies reaches heights of 30-45 feet with a spread of 15-25 feet. The pyramidal shape makes for an interesting feature in a garden. The leaves are the shape most often seen in holiday decorations. While this is a great tree, there are a number of pests and diseases that can impact it here. Keep an eye on it to ensure it stays in good health. Found in all but 11 of the continental United States, this is the plant with the widest range of any on this list. Also, this plant has the most leaf spines of any on this list.

Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)

Similar in size and shape to the American holly, this holly is a good option in a smaller space. Growing to only 20-30 feet with an 8–12-foot spread, this tree provides a similar feel in the landscape. The leaves have smooth edges with one spine on the tip, which contrasts to the American Holly leaves. Another benefit over the American holly is that the dahoon holly is less susceptible to pests and diseases.

East Palatka Holly (*Ilex x attenuata*)

First discovered near East Palatka, Florida in 1927, this plant grows from 30-45 feet tall with a spread of 10-15 feet. This makes it very similar in size and shape to the American holly. A major difference is the smooth leaf edges with a single spine at the tip, which is similar to the dahoon holly. These similarities make sense as this tree is a hybrid of American and dahoon holly.

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Yaupon holly is the smallest tree on the list. It can also be considered a large shrub. With heights of 12-25 feet and a spread of 15-20 feet this rounded tree/shrub is great for a different look in the landscape. As with all hollies, the evergreen leaves keep it looking nice year-round. The size and shape make this plant a good option to use as barrier hedges. Though the slow growth rate means you will have to purchase larger plants to get the privacy of hedge.

Dwarf Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria* var. *nana*)

A smaller, rounded shrub the dwarf yaupon holly gets to be only 7-10 feet tall spreading between 4 and 6 feet. Regular pruning can keep the size reduced. Due to cultivation practices, this plant produces no fruit. While also being a slow growing plant, it is a good option for a hedge.

While this is not an all inclusive list of hollies that you can grow in this area, I hope that it entices you to look into additional options for your landscape.

Garden of the Month – Backyard Habitat

The backyard Habitat Garden was established to represent plants that can be planted in your backyard to not only look attractive but attract wildlife. Two elements of the habitat are food and a place for safety/nesting. The one plant pictured below is the native beautyberry which has fruit that is a favorite of many songbirds. The picture of the blue birdhouse represents a place a bird might find to build a nest.

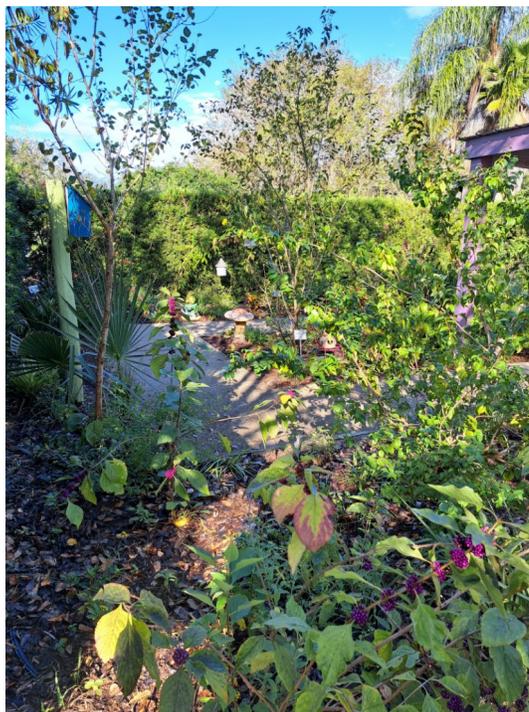
Congratulations to Carol Morris, the lead of the Backyard Habitat. This is a challenging garden to maintain with its diverse plant life. Well done.



Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Clinic

Bring your plant, insect, and soil problems to our Plant Clinic for advice Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The plant clinic is staffed by volunteers. Please call ahead at 352-343-4101 to be sure that someone is in the clinic to assist you with your question.

You may also send photos of your local problems to Jamielyn Daugherty at jdaugherty@ufl.edu or to the plant clinic at lakemg@ifas.ufl.edu.



Discovery Gardens

Please plan a visit to over twenty different gardens located at 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares. The hours are Monday through Friday and the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Just like your yard, Discovery Garden changes with the seasons and will reveal something new with each visit. Come see the changes in the garden.

Class – Saturday In The Garden

NOV 19, 2022 -- 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

Saturday in the Gardens: Tree Care from Planting to Pruning

Join Jamie Daugherty, UF/IFAS Lake County Extension, Residential Horticulture Agent as she presents Saturday in the Gardens: Tree Care from Planting to Pruning.

When: November 19, 2022 Time: 10:00 am

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Lake County, 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL 32778

Cost \$5.00, includes educational materials

Registration is required.

Proper tree care begins with selecting the right tree and planting it in the right place. Make sure your tree will thrive — especially once fully grown — where you want to plant it. Things to consider: the tree's purpose and planting site limitations. Learn more about planting the right tree in the right place and the proper care for your tree.

For more information contact: Jamie Daugherty at jdaugherty@ufl.edu or JuWanda Rowell at juwanda.rowell@ufl.edu.

DEC 17, 2022 -- 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

Saturday in the Gardens: Holiday Plants

Join Master Gardener Volunteer Leslie Lightbourne, as she presents on Saturday in the Gardens: Holiday Plants

When: December 17, 2022 Time: 10:00 am

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Lake County, 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL 32778

Cost \$5.00, includes educational materials

Christmas cacti, Poinsettias, and amaryllis are festive, but are not the only holiday plants around. You will learn about these traditional holiday plants and other beautiful and festive plants to brighten your holiday season.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information contact: Jamie Daugherty at jdaugherty@ufl.edu or JuWanda Rowell at juwanda.rowell@ufl.edu

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