

Green/Black Tea Camellia



What's most exciting about those leaves, is that you can pick them and make your own tea. You'll have a great conversation-starter with visitors, and the coolest homemade present.

Camellia sinensis

- **Use:** Almost everyone drinks tea without really thinking about it, not realizing that the leaves themselves are actually from a well known garden plant, the Camellia. *Camellia sinensis* var *sinensis* originates from China where it naturally grows on moist mountain slopes in fertile acidic soils. Yes you can harvest the leaves to make a refreshing cup of tea. These plants were grown using organic practices.
- **Exposure:** Prefers sheltered site, part sunny or medium shade, and any well drained neutral/acid soil. Extreme summer heat may cause leaf burn; needs some shade if planted near a white house due to reflection of sun.
- **Growth:** Moderate growing to 8-10' tall and 6-8' wide. Can be kept as short as 4-5' tall for easy harvesting.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 7-10; Shrub
- **Foliage:** Evergreen, glossy. You can make both green tea or black tea the difference is in how you dry the leaves. Green tea is dried right after harvesting, while black tea is crushed and allowed to oxidize.
- **Flower:** It blooms in late fall and winter, white flowers illuminating the sleepy winter landscape. You can even surprise your dinner guests with fresh floral tablescapes. Prune only right after blooms fade if you want flowers every year.

Print this sign out at www.growersoutlet.com