

Pink Tea Camellia



Camellia sinensis 'Rosea'

- **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. We use them at home as a lovely evergreen hedge for areas with morning sun and afternoon shade. In containers on a shady deck or planted along the home they have a myriad of uses and the flowers in late fall to winter are stunning.
- **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 6' tall and 6' wide and possibly 8-10' tall over time if left unpruned. Can be kept as short as 4-5' tall for easy harvesting.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 6-9; 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. New leaves emerge red in spring before turning a pleasing rich green in summer.
- **Flower:** In fall, delicate, fragrant, soft-pink flowers with pink stamens tipped in yellow at the center are produced in abundance. We enjoy cutting the flowers and floating them in bowls of water. You can even surprise your dinner guests with fresh floral tablescapes. Prune only right after blooms fade if you want flowers every year.

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.



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