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23/03/2026

Landscape
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GENEARL ADVICE

Camellia Root System and Water Requirements

Dear Ross,

We are writing to provide the following general advice in relation to the root characteristics and water requirements of Camellia species.

To the best extent of our knowledge, Camellias are typically characterised by a shallow, fibrous root system, with the majority of active feeder roots located within the upper soil profile, generally within approximately 300-800mm of the surface. These roots tend to spread laterally and are sensitive to soil compaction and disturbance, and therefore perform best in well-drained soils with adequate organic content.

In terms of water uptake, Camellias primarily rely on surface soil moisture derived from rainfall and/or supplementary irrigation. Due to the relatively shallow nature of their root system, they are not typically reliant on, nor capable of accessing, deep groundwater sources such as water tables located at depths exceeding 2 metres. Accordingly, maintaining consistent surface moisture is important to support healthy growth and establishment.

Please note that the above advice is of a general nature only based on typical horticultural characteristics of Camellia species. Site-specific conditions, including soil profile, drainage, rainfall, irrigation, may influence plant performance. As such, this advice should not be relied upon as a substitute for detailed site investigation or specialist horticultural or arboricultural assessment.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly on 02 8004 6946 or 0420 225 866.

Kind regards,

Kate Xiao Gong
Director | Registered Landscape Architect
B.LArch | M.LU

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects