



Using MegaGro on Camellias



Growing Camellias can be a rewarding yet challenging endeavor. Producing big, beautiful blooms takes a little bit of knowledge, good timing and the right tools. Hard winter freezes frequently injure *Camellia japonica* buds before they open. If the plant sustains winter injury, Camellia flowers can be disappointing. This can be particularly tricky, since many varieties flower in mid-winter when there is the greatest danger of cold injury to the open blossoms. The secret to getting beautiful blooms is getting earlier blooms, before severe freezing can occur, and ahead of petal blight in areas where this disease is found.

To achieve earlier flowering, many camellia growers use MegaGro. By using MegaGro, you can stimulate your Camellias to bloom earlier, and often produce larger flowers. Noticeable increases in flower size and quality, color, and blooms up to 5-inches, are not uncommon on some of the large flowering varieties. Growers find they can easily produce greenhouse-quality flowers on outdoor plants that also remain on the plant longer than normal.

The process of applying MegaGro is often called “gibbing” among Camellia enthusiasts. MegaGro is the quick and easy way to “gibb” your Camellias. The following varieties generally respond well to MegaGro treatments:

- Arejishi
- Christine Lee
- Daikagura
- Debutante
- Dr. Tinsley
- Dr. W. G. Lee
- Eugenia Howell
- Flowerwood
- Herme
- High Hat
- Lady Vansittart
- Margaret Hertrich
- Martha Brice
- Mathotiana
- Mathotiana Supreme
- Morning Glow
- Mrs. Charles Cobb Var.
- Mrs. Josephine Hern
- Pink Perfection
- Pink Star
- Rev. John Drayton
- Rosea Superba
- Scented Treasure
- Tiffany
- White Giant

MegaGro is easy to use. In general, an 800 ppm solution is very effective in stimulating earlier flowering and larger blooms. To make this solution, simply dilute the MegaGro Concentrate with equal parts of water. This solution can be sprayed or applied using an eye-dropper, syringe or squeeze bottle.

Applying MegaGro to your Camellias can be done in a few simple steps. MegaGro is applied directly to the bloom bud, so to treat the bloom bud, you first locate the vegetative bud. The vegetative bud is generally smaller and pointed while the flower bud is larger and rounded. Before applying MegaGro, break out the vegetative bud next to the bloom bud to be treated. This leaves a cup of bud scales at the base. Put one drop or spray of MegaGro solution in the little cup that you created by removing the vegetative bud. MegaGro will be absorbed by the bloom bud, which should begin noticeable growth within 2 weeks. **NOTE:** Make sure the bloom bud is fairly well developed before the treatment is made. It is also recommended that the vegetative bud be of fair size before applying MegaGro. If the buds are too immature at the time of treatment, they may drop or the developing flower may not be normal in shape or size.

The more mature your Camellia plant is, the larger the number of buds you can treat. Growers report treating up to 50 blossoms on large plants. On large plants, treat 5-10 buds each week to obtain flowers over a long period of time. On small plants only 2-3 feet tall, treat approximately 1 out of every 5-10 stems. It is generally not recommended to treat all buds on a small plant. The terminal vegetative buds on treated stems usually produce limited growth the following spring, therefore, you can cut treated flowers for use in the home or prune the stems back later to the third or fourth vegetative bud.

The time required for MegaGro treated buds to flower differs between varieties. Using MegaGro on Camellias for earlier blooms is recommended from September through December, but results are best when buds are treated in September and October. When MegaGro is applied in September on early flowering varieties, blooms can open within 30 days. Varieties that normally bloom late may require 60-90 days to open, so it is best to apply MegaGro in early September for those late-flowering varieties.