Cultural Requirements

**Camellias**—do best when planted in part shade. They need a planting site with well-drained soil. Avoid planting where shade trees’ shallow root systems will compete for nutrients and water. Camellias grow well in soils that are slightly acidic (pH of 6.0-6.5), but they can tolerate a lower pH. (see below)

**Magnolias**—prefer full sun to part shade. Planting should allow for plenty of room overhead and at the base of the magnolia, so there is no root/shoot competition from other plants. They should have some wind protection, primarily for evergreen magnolias during the winter months. Magnolias grow best in well-drained, porous loam soil that is slightly acidic (5.5-6.5) and also rich in organic matter.

**Rhododendrons**—grow best in part shade, and evergreen plant performance can be improved if it is planted in a sheltered location to prevent it from drying winter winds. They grow best in light, well-drained soils with good aeration and moist soils that are not overly dry during the summer months. Rhododendrons require acidic soils with a pH of 5.5-6.5 (any soils with a higher pH need to be acidified). The soil needs to also be high in organic matter like humus, decayed oak leaves, or pine needles.

All container plants should be removed from their container and the root mass should be opened to maximize the contact between roots and the native soil into which they are planted. This encourages quicker establishment of plants. Until plants are established, they should be watered as you would a container growing on your patio; their roots do not yet have access to the moisture in the soil. As plants establish, water can be reduced but extra care should be provided for up to two years to assure survival.

Camellias grow best in part shade with a copious amount of indirect light. Plants will grow in shade but have reduced flower production. Camellias do not do well in winter sun that tends to desiccate the foliage. Moist, rich, slightly acidic soil is preferred and poorly drained sites are to be avoided. Plants should be protected from winter wind, as this will also cause the foliage to burn. Avoid droughty situations such a root competition with large trees unless supplemental water is available.