• I have a camellia bush and the buds have turned brown. Why?

There can be several reasons for buds to turn brown and drop. 1) Buds on camellias start to develop in late summer of the previous year. If there are adverse conditions including dry soil this can result in buds turning brown and dropping. Ensure your plant has an adequate supply of water during these critical times of the year. 2) Excessive or late feeding can cause buds to drop. Avoid feeding after July. 3) If you have a sensitive cultivar, low winter temperatures can cause buds to turn brown and drop. If temperatures drop unseasonably protect camellia with horticultural fleece.

Sources: https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=771