

# MAGNOLIA



**Scientific Name:** Magnolia Grandiflora

**Form:** Evergreen. Formal, dense, broadly pyramidal tree, slow growing to 60' tall, spreading to 40' wide.

**Trunk:** Typically has a single stem (or trunk) and a pyramidal shape. Smooth when young, maturing to dark brownish black platelets.

**Foliage:** The leaves are simple and broadly ovate, 5 to 8" long and 2 to 5" wide, with smooth and occasionally wavy margins. They are dark green, glossy, stiff and leathery, and often scurfy underneath with yellow-brown pubescence. The leaves have a waxy coating that makes them resistant to damage from salt and air pollution. The reddish young branches and pointed brownish-green buds are both pubescent.

**Flower/Fruit:** Large, showy, lemon

citronella scented flowers are white to ivory, up to 12" across and fragrant, with 6 to 12 petals with a waxy texture, emerging from the tips of twigs on mature trees in late spring. Flowering is followed by a rose-colored fruit. Trees begin flowering at 15 years and then bloom throughout the summer. Fall fruits are 3 to 4" cone-shaped pods which split open to reveal shiny bright red seeds. Very showy during flowering and fruiting.

**Cultivars:** Widely cultivated around the world, it has been bred and marketed commercially covering a broad range of shapes and sizes. No significant pest problems.

**Site Suitability:** Widely planted as a landscape tree in public landscapes and private gardens.

**Clearances:** Suitable for parks at 8 to 12'. Good for street sides, medians and lawns.

**Culture Considerations:** Tolerant of heat and damp soil. Once established, drought tolerant. Must have good drainage.

**Species Characteristics:** Commonly known as the Southern Magnolia or Bull Bay. It's a tree of the family Magnoliaceae native to the southeastern United States. On the west coast, it can be grown as far north as British Columbia/Seattle area.