

Botanical Name: Magnolia grandiflora

Common Name: Southern magnolia (several varieties available)

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, mostly single-trunked tree, with a sturdy branching structure forming an oval or pyramidal canopy; the shape tends to be somewhat variable depending upon the specific variety used

Height 25-50' (80') Spread 1/2-2/3 Growth Rate slow-moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil thrives in deep, moist loam soils; tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 4-12,14-24); prefers hot humid locations

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, broadly elliptic to somewhat obovate; 4"-10" long; dark glossy green above, paler green and rusty-hairy beneath

Flowers white, very showy, waxy appearing; solitary at or near the tips of branches; 6-8" wide, strongly aromatic; May-September

Fruit a conelike, 4-8" long aggregate fruit

Propagation: seed, followed by budding or grafting

Usage: dramatic accent tree valued for large showy flowers and glossy foliage; smaller plants can be used as espalier, larger trees are suitable as lawn or street tree; has shallow, aggressive root system, messy plant

Landscape Care:

Watering thrives with heavy irrigation - not very drought tolerant

Fertilizing balanced, in spring and late summer; add iron for chlorosis

Pruning head high when young and develop overall form; prune little

Pests/Diseases spider mites, scale; salt-burn from irrigation water

Special Conditions

Origin: S.E. US Family: Magnoliaceae