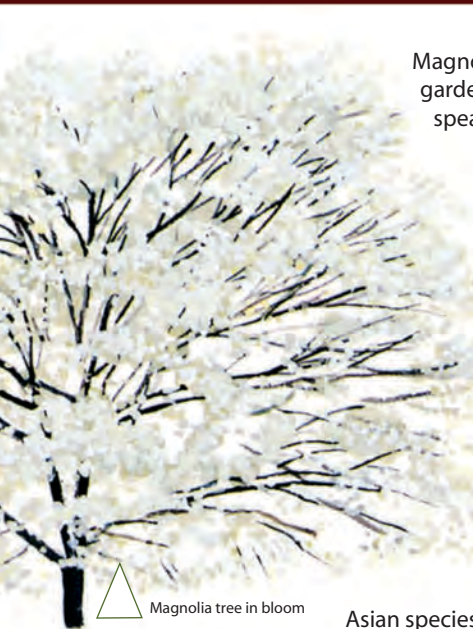


Magnolias - simple flowers reveal ancient beauty



Magnolia is a well known genus of woody plants used in temperate gardens. Its botanical name is also its common name in English speaking countries.

There are some 80 species, about 50 being Asian in distribution. Most of the species are found in mountain areas and more than half occur in the tropics.

The name of the genus commemorates Pierre Magnol [1638-1715]. An early Director of the Botanic Garden at Montpellier, France, and Professor of Botany and Medicine.

The first Magnolia in cultivation in Europe was from North America, Magnolia virginiana, recorded in 1688.

Asian species have been cultivated in China and Japan from long before 1688. Species taken to Europe from Asia were from cultivation there.

The evergreen yulan [Magnolia denudata] was one of those.

A popular Magnolia in older Tasmanian gardens was the bull bay [Magnolia grandiflora], another evergreen with large white flowers. This species was the first Magnolia listed in a Hobart nursery catalogue in 1830.



Magnolia [liliiflora nigra]



Cap Magnolia [delavayi]

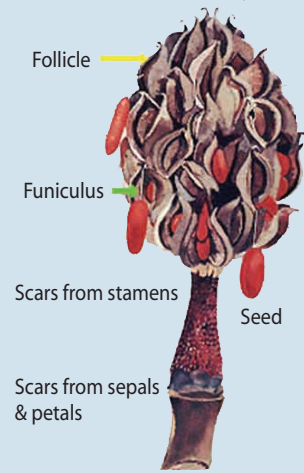


Magnolia [loebneri Merrill]



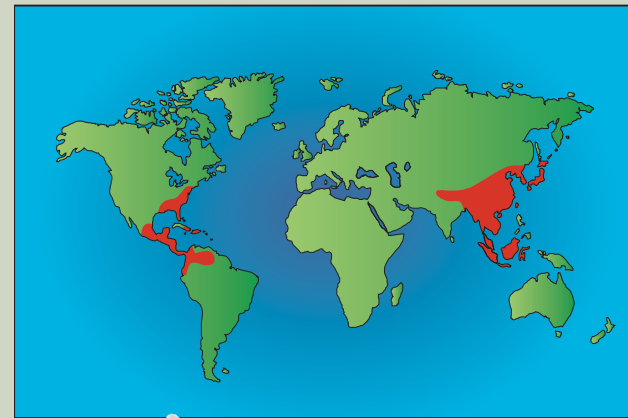
Magnolia [soulangeana ruby]

Magnolia seed head [fruit]



Magnolia and its relatives are seen as plants that have evolved little since their appearance among the earliest flowering plants. Their simple flower structure and seed head [fruit] are indicators of this.

Magnolia Distribution



Other Magnolia can be seen in North American collection, their location is given on the site map above.

The map shows the distribution of Magnolia and is indicative of their early appearance in among flowering plants on the ancient continent of Gondwana.



Magnolia [yellow river]

Behind: Magnolia [soulangeana ruby]

Magnolia sprengeri

