

# The Nurturing Leaves

Spring 2004, Volume 13 Number 1

## Magnificent Magnolias

Over 80 species of magnolias are native to North America, Central America and southeastern Asia. In evolutionary terms, magnolias are among the oldest of the flowering plants. One fossil dating back over 100 million years was found in central Kansas. A clue to their ancient history is the fact that they are primarily pollinated by beetles (not bees, wasps, butterflies and moths which evolved later).

Named for Pierre Magnol, a French doctor and botanist during the time of Louis XIV, magnolias have graced gardens for centuries. Their brightly colored orange seeds are very high in fat content, and provide a great source of food for more than a dozen species of birds.

Not only beautiful to behold, magnolias are fairly easy to grow and pest free. They prefer full sun or part shade and a well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Magnolias are sensitive to drought and do best when planted in a mulched bed with a 4" layer of bark mulch. Once planted, care should also be taken not to disturb their soft fleshy root system, so do not hoe or dig around their base.

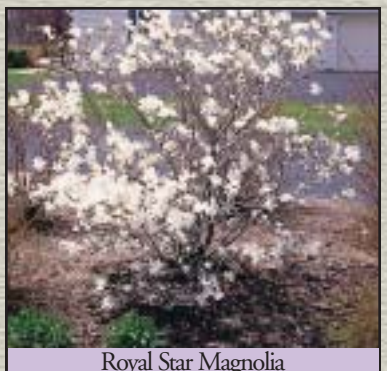
**Royal Star Magnolia** (*M. stellata* 'Royal Star') is the best choice for small gardens reaching 10-12' tall and wide. Very fragrant 6" large water-lily shaped white flowers are displayed in late April. Fine textured dark green foliage later turns copper in fall.

**Elizabeth Magnolia** (*M. x 'Elizabeth'*) has a pyramidal form, 25' tall and 20' wide. It produces numerous large fragrant, soft yellow blooms in May. Emerging leaves are copper colored, then become dark green for summer.

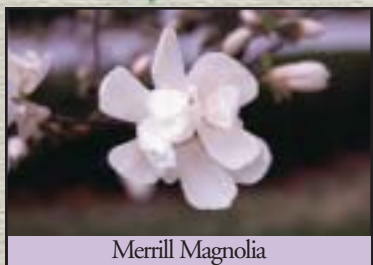
**Merrill Magnolia** (*M. x loeberni* 'Merrill') produces a cloud of fragrant white blossoms in late April. Nice round form and fast growing, it reaches a mature size of 25-30' tall and wide. Fall color is sometimes yellow bronze.



Elizabeth Magnolia



Royal Star Magnolia



Merrill Magnolia

## Spring Plant Sale

Cape Daisy (Purple and White) 4" Pot.....	\$ 4.49
Superbells, Million Bells (All colors) 4" Pot .....	\$ 4.49
Evangeline Lilac 3' B&B .....	\$ 21.99
4' B&B.....	\$ 26.99
Red Prince Weigela 3' B&B .....	\$ 23.99
Nearly Wild Rose #1Pot.....	\$ 15.99
Prairiefire Crabapple 1 3/4".....	\$ 149.00
Bob White Crabapple 1 3/4".....	\$ 124.99
Deborah Maple 2".....	\$ 188.99
1 3/4".....	\$ 158.99
Green Velvet Boxwood 2 gallon.....	\$ 22.99
18" B&B .....	\$ 59.00
Goldstrum Black-Eyed Susan 1gallon.....	\$ 6.99
Maynight Salvia 1 gallon .....	\$ 6.99
Catmint 1gallon .....	\$ 6.99

Plus many other trees, shrubs and perennials on sale – stop in to pick up a sale flyer or check out our web page [www.johnsonsnursery.com](http://www.johnsonsnursery.com)

Sales Ends 6/13/04



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Gala Apple

## Client Questions?

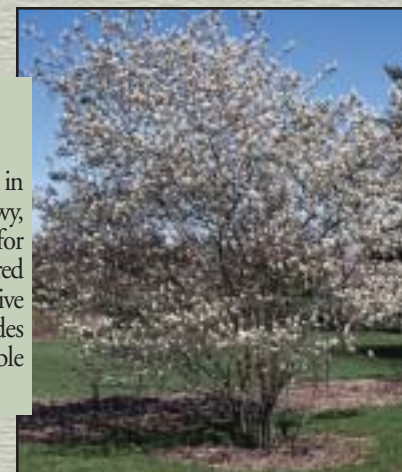
*I have a pretty small yard and would like to add an apple tree to my landscape but I have heard that you need to plant more than one tree in order to produce fruit, is that right?*

For adequate fruit set, apple trees need to be cross-pollinated by a different apple variety. The pollen must come from a different cultivar of apple or can come from an ornamental crabapple tree somewhere nearby. Pear trees must be similarly cross-pollinated by another variety of pear in the vicinity.

Other types of fruit trees such as, Mount Royal plum and North Star cherry (discussed in the column to the right) are both self-pollinating, which means you will have fruit if you plant only one tree.

Height: 20'  
Spread: 20-25'

Delicate white blossoms in spring, followed by showy, purplish fruits great for attracting birds. Excellent red orange fall color. Attractive light gray bark provides winter interest. Available single stem or multi-stem.



Princess Diana Serviceberry  
Wisconsin Nursery Association  
2004 Plant of the Year



## Got Fruit Trees?

This Spring we will have an expanded selection of fruit trees available for purchase. Fruit trees can be a wonderful addition to your landscape. They are a good way to get kids interested in gardening, provide food for wildlife and even make great gifts.

**Fireside Apple** - produces very large, red striped fruit with a sweet flavor good for eating. Ripens in early to mid-October. Storage life also noted to be good.

**Gala Apple** - produces bright orange-red fruit annually with a sweet creamy-yellow fine-textured flesh. Great for fresh eating and stores well into winter. Ripens in late September.

**Haralson Apple** - a natural semi-dwarf tree that reliably bears fruit the first year, and then biennially afterwards. Produces medium-sized red fruit that is very tart and crisp. Ripens in early October. Fruit keeps well.

**Jonathan Apple** - produces medium-sized bright red fruit that ripens in early October. Juicy white flesh with tinge of yellow. Aromatic and good for dessert or cooking.

**McIntosh Apple** - a classic apple that ripens in late September. Fruit is bright red, good for eating and baking. Heavy bearing, the fruit tends to drop when ripe and has a medium storage life.

**Zestar!™ Apple** - produces crisp and juicy apples with sweet tart flavor that ripen in late August/early September. Great for eating or cooking. Storage life is long for an early season apple.

**Mount Royal Plum** - a self-fertile European plum considered the best blue cultivar for Wisconsin. Abundant small tender, juicy fruit good for eating off the tree or to use in desserts, jams and preserves. Ripens late August.

**North Star Cherry** - a self-fertile, dwarf-sized (5-7") tree. Produces numerous bright red fruits with a small stone. Fruit is juicy and tart for use in pies. Blooms in mid-May and fruit ripens early July.

**Bartlett Pear** - Large golden yellow fruits. Flesh is buttery and juicy, excellent for eating or canning. Vigorous growing. Fruit ripens in September.

**Summercrisp Pear** - Very hardy. Fireblight resistant. Small but very sweet fruit. Harvest fruit in mid-August when still green with a red blush and then can be stored up to 2 months. Unlike most pears, fruit is best eaten while still crisp.

*KS*

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Questions?

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Wada's Memory Magnolia

**Wada's Memory Magnolia** (*M. x kewensis* 'Wada's Memory') is a fast growing tree that reaches a mature size of 30-40' tall and 30' wide. In early May before the leaves emerge, it produces a sea of 4-7" large, fragrant, white flowers. The newly emerging leaves are tinged with bronze, before turning medium green for the summer. In some years, the fall color can be butter yellow to bronze.

**Ballerina Magnolia** (*M. x loeborni* 'Ballerina') is a globe shaped tree reaching a height of 20' and spread of 20'-25' at maturity. Flower buds are cream colored opening to large fragrant white flowers with a pale pink center. It blooms in early May.



Ballerina Magnolia

**Leonard Messel Magnolia** (*M. x loeborni* 'Leonard Messel') has a nice round habit with a mature size of 20' tall and 20-25' wide. It's dark purple buds open to lovely fragrant, 4-6" large, fuchsia pink flowers in early May.



Leonard Messel Magnolia



Interesting fruit of Umbrella Magnolia

**Umbrella Magnolia** (*M. tripetala*) is an uncommon native to eastern U.S. Fast growing to 15'-30' tall and wide. Huge (18" long, 6" wide) leaves appear whorled giving this tree a tropical feel. Large creamy-white flowers appear in late May with interesting 4"-6" long rosy-red fruit in fall. Tolerant of shade or understory sites, it likes moist but not wet soils. May sustain winter dieback but quickly regrows to previous size. Benefits from a slightly protected site.

**Cucumbertree Magnolia** (*Magnolia acuminata*) Native to eastern U.S (including southern Great Lakes). It is an enormous shade tree, 60-70' tall and wide, and the most cold tolerant magnolia. In May it produces yellowish green blooms that are lightly fragrant. Unfortunately, the blooms are hidden in the tall canopy. Other ornamental features of the cucumber magnolia, however, give it great character. Its large (6-10" long) deep green tropical looking leaves, 3" long pinkish red cucumber shaped fruit and massive wide spreading branches make it a picturesque specimen.



Cucumbertree Magnolia

## New Shrubs for 2004



**Tiger Eyes™ Sumac**

Height and Spread: 6'

Full sun, new foliage is chartreuse changing to bright yellow. Leaves have dramatic cutleaf form. Outstanding fall color.



**Endless Summer™ Hydrangea**

Height and Spread: 3-5'

Full or part-shade, mildew resistant foliage. Blooms on new and old wood; to encourage rebloom remove spent flowers. Flower color blue or pink depending on soil pH.



**Frontenac Rose**

Height and Spread: 2.5- 3.5'

Full sun, foliage is mildew and blackspot resistant. Blooms late June through frost. Very hardy shrub rose, part of Canadian Explorer Series.



Meet our Staff!

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## Prune like a Professional

The right tool makes all the difference. Felco's state of the art pruning shears and saws are appreciated by professionals for their ergonomic design and quality Swiss precision. We have several models available this Spring to help with your pruning chores.



Felco #6 Pruner



Felco Pruning Saw



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### Johnson's Nursery Hours

SPRING (April - June)

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00pm

Saturday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday 11:00am - 3:00pm

SUMMER (July - October)

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday 8:00am - 4:00pm

Change Service Requested

262-252-4988

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
W 180 N 6275 Marcy Road

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