

Magnolia grandiflora

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gran-dee-FLOE-ruh

(Southern Magnolia, Bull Bay)

Magnoliaceae (Magnolia family)

Ori ngl.5outhern U.S. 1734

Species characteristics:

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

Trunk - Smooth when young, maturing to dark brownish black platelets.

Foliage - Glossy, stiff and leathery leaves are deep green, rusty brown-backed and variable by cultivar. They are ovate, 3-10" long and 2-4" wide, with edges that are entire and occasionally wavy. The reddish young branches and pointed brownish-green buds are both pubescent.

Flowers/fruit - Large, showy, scented 6 - 10" cup-shaped flowers have fleshy light yellow to ivory petals. Trees bloom throughout the summer. Fall fruits are 3 - 4" cone shaped pods that split open to reveal shiny bright red seeds. Very showy during flowering and fruiting.

Cultivars - Numerous cultivars covering a broad range of shapes and sized, some reaching no more than 20', as well as some with variations in leaf, flower and growth characteristics. No significant pest problems.

Site suitability:

Sunset zones - 4 - 12 and 14 • 24.

Clearances - Suitable for 10' minimum parkways, medians or cutouts. Smaller cultivars are suitable under utility lines and in smaller planting sites.

Good for street sides, medians, parks and lawns.

Culture considerations:

Tolerant of heat and damp soil. Somewhat drought tolerant. Must have good drainage. Litter problems.

Comments, notes:

Use cultivars when uniformity and earlier blooming times are needed.

