



Magnolia virginiana

Common name: Sweetbay Magnolia

Hardiness: Zones 5 – 9

Light: Sun to Part Sun

Soil: Moist to wet acidic soil

Size: 20' – 30' tall x 10' – 15' wide (larger in the Southern States); can be single trunked or multi-stemmed, with smooth bark.

Foliage: Gray-green leaves with silvery underside; semi-evergreen to deciduous in the Northeast

Flowers: Creamy white, lemon-scented blossoms, followed by woody fruits with bright red-orange seeds in fall

Bloom Time in Tri-State Area: Summer

Wildlife Value: Seeds for birds

Magnolia virginiana is a graceful small to medium sized tree with elegant lemon-scented creamy white blooms. It is best planted in spring in moist to wet acidic soil in a sunny or partially sunny location. It can be single trunked or multi-stemmed and is quite pest-free. In the fall, its large woody fruits mature, offering reddish-orange seeds to native and migrating birds. *Magnolia* is an ancient genus which evolved prior to bees, and accordingly, all are pollinated by beetles.



Magnolia virginiana, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Photos by: Albert F.W. Vick and Sally & Andy Wasowski