

# SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

## *Magnolia grandiflora*

One of the most beautiful native trees, evergreen with straight trunk, conical crown, and very fragrant, very large, white flowers. The pyramidal southern magnolia does not get extremely large in most of its range. It is usually 50 ft. tall, rarely growing to 100 ft. They have a dense growth of smooth, leathery evergreen leaves that are alternate, 5–10 inches long, shiny on top and rusty below. Fragrant, creamy-white flowers, which discolor easily if bruised, appear on the ends of thick, tough stems all over the tree. The flowers appear throughout the summer and into fall. The flowers produce cone-like seedpods that contain large red seeds. When the pods open, the seeds often fall from their place and hang by silky threads.

Casting very dense shade on the ground below where little will grow, it is often best to retain the lower branches and allow them to touch the ground at the base.



