

Magnolia grandiflora

Southern magnolia, evergreen magnolia, bull-bay, big-laurel, large-flower magnolia



Magnolia grandiflora (southern magnolia) is an evergreen magnolia that comes from the forests of the south-eastern United States. It grows here as undergrowth of *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Quercus falcata* and *Carya tomentosa*. Across the world - in temperate climates - this magnolia can be found as a popular ornamental tree. It grows at a moderate rate and forms a pyramidal crown fifteen to twenty-five metres tall and twelve to fifteen metres wide, ultimately becoming broadly egg-shaped.

Magnolia grandiflora is well known for its incomparable large evergreen leaves, which are glossy dark green and have a rusty underside. The southern magnolia refreshes its leaves throughout the year and these only slowly decompose on the ground. The spectacular large, white, tulip-shaped flowers appear in June and July and have a delightful scent, especially on warm summer evenings. Likewise, they are followed by large, conical pink fruits, full of red seeds. The bark of the southern magnolia is often not noticeable because of the evergreen foliage but is smooth and an attractive grey to grey-brown colour, and has a kind of elephant skin texture as it matures.

Magnolia grandiflora often grows in shady spots in its native habitat. Once the tree has developed a good root system, it is resistant to drought and heat thanks to its deep taproot. The most beautiful specimens occur in damp, rich soils where it can develop deep roots - in full sun to partial shade. The southern magnolia can be pruned to shape and makes a very lovely evergreen addition for gardens and parks, and even when planted in the shade of buildings. Something to bear in mind is that *Magnolia grandiflora* requires a reasonably sheltered site.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, half-stem trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, solitary shrubs

USE

Location: park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open | **Planting concepts:** shade-tolerant, Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped, wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 25 m | **Width:** 12 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 7A - 10B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade, shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: tulip-shaped, striking, standing, singular, big, scented | **Flower colour:** white | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** dark green, underside brown | **Leaves:** evergreen, ovoid, big, leathery, polished, underside hairy | **Fruits:** striking, large, cones | **Fruit colour:** orange | **Bark colour:** grey, grey-black | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches, long shoots | **Root system:** deep, extensive, highly branched, coarse roots, fleshy roots, tap root