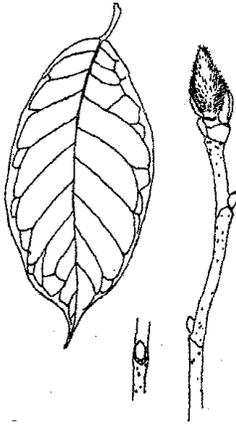


Saucer Magnolia



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Along with the cherry blossoms the flowering of the Saucer Magnolia is perhaps the most anticipated of the spring blooms. The very large multi-petaled flowers emerge in mid-spring before the leaves from large fuzzy buds. This medium sized tree has large green leaves with a hairy underside that turns a yellow-brown in the fall, a smooth handsome gray bark, and wide spreading low branches. It can grow either as a shrub or small to medium tree.

HABIT AND SIZE: 20-30'high and about as wide. Upright in form when young but developing several low branches and becoming spreading to form a pyramidal to round outline.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A great tree to be used in small to medium landscapes, malls, courtyards, near buildings or grouped in a larger landscape. Wonderful spring bloom but susceptible to late season frosts about 1 in 3 or 4 years.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple, 3-6" long and half that wide, inversely egg shaped (obovate) or broad-oblong tapering at the base and short pointed at the tip. Color dark green and smooth on top and paler and finely hairy underneath. Fall color yellowish-brown.

FLOWERS: Large (5-10" dia.) complete (all parts), white to pink or purplish tepals (usually 9) the inside white and the color on the outside. Many stamens and numerous hypogynous pistils covering an elongated receptacle.

FRUIT: The pistils adhere to each other to form a fleshy and somewhat woody or papery cone like fruit with each pistil opening to expose a red berry-like seed hanging by an extensile like thread.

BUD: Large hairy and silky feeling terminal buds, 0.5-0.75" long and smaller lateral buds.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: A number of mildews, leaf blight, leaf spot, dieback cankers, leaf scab and scales but nothing too serious. The sapsucker bird bores holes in trunk but no harm.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-9. No native range.

CULTIVARS: Numerous. The saucer magnolia is itself a chance hybrid of *M. denudata* (*heptapeta*) and *M. lilliflora* (*quinquepeta*) found in 1820 by Chevalier Soulange-Bodin who raised the hybrid in his garden where it first flowered in 1826. 'Lennei Alba'- white flowers, 'Lennei'- purple to magenta late season flowers, 'Jane'- vivid purple flowers.