



## **Magnolia grandiflora (Southern Magnolia)**

**Height** 60' to 80'

**Spread** 30' to 40'

**Growth rate** Medium

**Bloom Color** White and Fragrant

**Bloom Time** Summer

### **Environment**

Suitable soil is fertile, moist and well-drained. The PH preference is an acidic or slightly basic soil. Light requirements: full sun to part shade. Salt and drought tolerance: moderate

### **Description**

This evergreen tree needs plenty of room, but those with less space can plant cultivars that are smaller and slower growing. The distinctive white fragrant flowers are 8"-10" in diameter. A native to North America, it is the state tree of Mississippi and will grow in zones 7 through 10.

### **Culture Notes**

In moist fertile soils this tree will thrive in full sun and hot conditions once established. If irrigation can't be provided periodically, plants located in partial shade seem to grow better. This tree is considered allergy free and causes little or no allergy problems.

### **Pests and Diseases**

The tree can be attacked by cankers or verticillium, causing branches to dieback, keep trees healthy and prune out infected branches. Magnolia may be subject to leaf spots, blights, scabs and black mildew but rarely require chemical control. The Magnolia borer and scale can also attack this tree.

### **Maintain adequate mulch area**

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Apply a thinner layer of mulch directly over the root ball but keep it away from the trunk. This allows rainwater, irrigation and air to easily enter the root ball and keeps the trunk dry. Placing mulch against the trunk and applying too thick a layer above the root ball can kill the tree.

### **Tree establishment Specifications**

Choose good quality trees for planting and locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size.

The most common cause of young tree failure is planting too deep. In most instances, the point where the top most roots in the root ball originate from the trunk should be located just above the soil surface.

Trees with good, strong structure need no pruning at planting, except to remove broken twigs. Do not remove branches to compensate for root loss, research has shown that this can be detrimental to establishment.