

Magnolias, ranging from large shrubs to trees, are prized worldwide for their form and flowers. They produce showy, fragrant flowers in a range of colors. Bloom season at the Garden typically starts in late April and peaks in mid-May, with some plants continuing to flower into June. Magnolia hybridization has developed a variety of flower forms and colors to choose from.

Flower Forms



Saucer: large flowers with few tepals*, such as *Magnolia soulangeana* and *Magnolia* hybrids
 Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Big Dude'



Star: small flowers with many tepals*, such as *Magnolia stellata*, *Magnolia kobus* and *Magnolia x loebneri*
 Pictured is *Magnolia stellata* 'Jane Platt'

***Tepals:** the name given to the showy parts of a flower when the petals look the same as the sepals. In many plants, sepals are often green and protect the petals while a flower bud forms.

Flower Colors



White: most common flower color, tends to be the most fragrant
 Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Elegant Spring'



Pink: second most common flower color and most common color of saucer magnolias
 Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Daybreak'



Yellow: used to be the desired flower color, and thanks to Brooklyn Botanic Garden's breeding program, this color is now more common
 Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Elizabeth'



Purple: there are only a handful of true purple-flowering cultivars
 Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Black Beauty'



Red: currently the most desired flower color
 Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Red Baron'



Combination: flowers that contain more than one color, pink and white combinations are the most common
 Pictured is *Magnolia zenii* 'Pink Parchment'

Plant Forms



Fastigiate: compact and upward pointing, perfect when a tall tree for a tight space is needed

- *Magnolia* 'Sunspire',
M. 'Judy Zuk',
M. 'Daybreak'

Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Sunspire'
 Photo courtesy of louisetheplantgeek.com



Shrub: naturally shrubby, multi-stemmed growth habit, perfect for smaller landscapes, many *Magnolia stellata* cultivars and hybrids including

- *Magnolia* 'Ann',
Magnolia 'Jane',
Magnolia 'Ricki'

Pictured is *Magnolia* 'Ricki'



Big-Leaf: medium sized trees with huge leaves and large flowers

- *Magnolia macrophylla*, *M. tripetala*, *M. fraseri*, *M. macrophylla* subsp. *ashei*, *M. obovata*

Pictured is *Magnolia macrophylla*
 Photo courtesy of JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University