

Garden Plants & Design

Plant Hybridization



The Man Behind the Magnolia

Dennis Ledvina (1939-2015) was a local magnolia hybridizer who worked with international colleagues to create exotic new magnolia introductions.

Dennis's Hybridization Goals Were To:

- Develop cold hardy magnolias for Wisconsin, hardy in USDA Zones 4-5
- Develop later blooming magnolias that would not be harmed by late spring frosts
- Extend the blooming period of magnolias
- Develop narrow trees for small landscapes
- Increase the diversity of bloom color and flower forms
- Develop a multi-lobed magnolia with good red/pink color

Thanks to Dennis's generosity, Green Bay Botanical Garden has a wide variety of magnolias hardy to Wisconsin's climate. This includes over 100 magnolia varieties, many of which were bred and donated by Dennis himself.

Prominent Introductions in Our Collection Include:



Rose Marie Magnolia –
in memory of Dennis's mother,
Rose Marie



Red Baron Magnolia



Cotton Candy Magnolia

Photo courtesy of Tom Trzebiatowski Jr.



Sweet Love Magnolia

Photo courtesy of Tom Trzebiatowski Jr.



Royal Splendor Magnolia