

2009 Great UBC Magnolia Sale

Once again The Friends of the Garden at The UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research have for sale magnolia trees rarely seen in nurseries. Examples of most of these trees can be seen blooming in spring in the Asian Garden of the Botanical Garden.

Magnolia amoena was chosen for our list by the late Peter Wharton, formerly curator of the Asian Garden. Peter thought highly of this magnolia and felt it truly deserved garden space. *M.amoena* is aptly named, for 'amoena' means delightful or beautiful. The flowers are pink and fragrant, with six reflexed tepals surrounding three upright. The stamens are purplish red. It is a small tree with an anticipated ultimate height of 7 to 12m (25-40'). This magnolia, like our final offering *M. zenii*, was only introduced from China in the late 20th century. It is a true rarity in gardens. Hardiness is about the same as the more commonly known *M. denudata*, Z(6)7. Price is \$45.00.

Many consider ***Magnolia campbellii*** the most spectacular of all magnolias. Flower diameter is up to 25cm (10"). Their single stem often reaches 9 to 15m (30-50') in cultivation. It is native to the Himalaya from Nepal into Yunnan, China. From seed these trees take many years to flower, but when grafted to *M.kobus* the wait is considerably shorter. *M.campbellii* is hardy to z(7)8 and is suitable for coastal areas only. This year we have two of the best examples from the Asian Garden.

Magnolia campbellii ssp.campbellii 'Betty Jessel' is remarkable for its colour- a deep crimson. It is one of the latest *M.campbellii* to flower.

***Magnolia campbellii* ssp. *campbellii* (alba group) 'Ethel Hillier'** has white tepals with a pale pink tinge. It has large flowers and is reported to be somewhat hardier than most *M. campbellii*. *M. campbellii* ssp. *campbellii* (alba Group) are reported to reach maturity in half the time as the typical form.



'Ethel Hillier' Photo: Adrian Reimer

We have also propagated two other selections, *Magnolia campbellii* var. *mollicomata* 'Borde Hill' and 'Lanarth'. Regrettably our yield has been tiny and the few that were successful were spoken for earlier. We have more coming for next year. If you wish either of these two cultivars we would be happy to reserve one for you.



'Borde Hill' Photo: Adrian Reimer



'Lanarth' Photo: Adrian Reimer

We have three forms of the large flowered *Magnolia sargentiana* var. *robusta*. One selection, an early flowering form of ***Magnolia sargentiana* var. *robusta***, is the first to bloom each season at the UBC Botanical Garden. This tree is growing on the lawn beyond the deck of the reception centre. This *M.sargentiana* var. *robusta* is a heavily flowering bushy tree that will be 8m to perhaps 12m at maturity. The flowers are 30cm (12") wide with 12 to 16 rose coloured tepals deepening to rose-crimson at the base and pale pink to white on the inside. A mature specimen in full flower is one of our most spectacular flowering trees. Our second selection, ***Magnolia sargentiana* var. *robusta* 'Blood Moon'** has deeper coloured flowers. The third selection is ***Magnolia sargentiana* var. *robusta* 'Alba'**, an attractive white flowered form growing along the Lower Asian Way in the Asian garden. All three selections are hardy to USDA zone 7. Price: \$45.00.

We have four superb *Magnolia sprengeri* var. *diva* cultivars. These are hardy to USDA zone 7, possibly 6 if favourably located. When mature they typically reaches 7m to 15m (25 to 50'). Our ***Magnolia sprengeri* var. *diva*** has elegant cup-shaped flowers, rose-carmine outside and light pink inside. It is a favourite in the Asian Garden. The seed of the parent of this marvelous magnolia was collected in 1901 by Ernest 'Chinese' Wilson in western Hubei Province in China. The original seedling, grown at Caerhays Castle in Cornwall, England, was a rich pink. It was named 'Diva' for its astonishing beauty. Price: \$45.00

Some other equally fine seedlings of the original Diva have been named and are also part of our collection.

***Magnolia sprengeri* var. *diva* 'Burncoose Purple'** has a fastigiate (columnar) habit, unlike the other cultivars. The flowers are deep pink-purple. Price: \$45.00



'Burncoose Purple' Photo: Adrian Reimer

***Magnolia sprengeri* var. *diva* 'Eric Savill'** is a small to medium-sized tree with dark cerise-pink flowers with 12 tepals that are a rich pink fading to pink inside. This *Magnolia sprengeri* 'Diva' seedling was named in honour of the creator of the Savill Garden at Windsor Great Park. Price: \$45.00



'Eric Savill' Photo: Adrian Reimer

***Magnolia sprengeri* var. *diva* 'Claret Cup'** is a small tree with 8" (20cm.) scented saucer-shaped rosy purple flowers having 12 or 14 tepals. The inner surfaces are paler and fade to white as the flower opens. It was first grown at Bodnant, in Wales, one of the great gardens of the world. Price: \$45.00



'Claret Cup' Photo: Adrian Reimer

***Magnolia* 'Barbara Cook'** is a lovely hybrid of *M.dawsoniana* and *M.campbellii*. Vancouverite Alleyne Cook, a leading North American magnolia expert, introduced and named this tree after his wife. *M.*'*Barbara Cook*' has flowers that are the palest pink on the outside and rosy pink on the inside. The buds open upwards and then slowly turn down. Flowers are 9" (22cm) dia. The tree in the Asian garden is large and vigorous, and is expected to make 18m to 24m (60 to 80') at full maturity in 40 or 50 years. Hardiness is probably USDA zone 7. Price: \$45.00

***Magnolia* 'Pegasus'** is a beautiful floriferous hybrid of *M.cylindrica* and probably *M.denudata*. The candle-like flowers are 10cm (4") long and are pure white with delicate rays of pale pink at the base of the six tepals. They open in April. *M.*'*Pegasus*' is a small tree, reaching about 9m (30'). The bright red fruiting cones are an attractive autumn feature. Our tree is along the sidewalk as one walks from the parking lot to the garden courtyard. Pegasus blooms very early in life. Trees are hardy to USDA zone 5 or cooler. Price: \$45.00

Magnolia zenii is rare in it's native Jiangsu Province in China and was only first planted outside of Asia in 1980. It is still extremely rare in western gardens. It is a small very floriferous lovely tree with a full crown. *M.zenii* grows 5m to 7m tall (16-23'). The fragrant flowers are white with a purple base, and are about 12cm (5") across. Price: \$45.00.



Magnolia zenii Photo: Daniel Mosquin

All trees are **grafted to *Magnolia kobus*** root-stock for hardiness and early flowering. Grafting was done in 2007. Trees should be planted with the pot soil level matching ground level. Some authorities recommend that the soil around the roots be raised by 6 to 8mm (1/4 to 5/16") per year until the graft is covered to get the tree growing on its own roots. The graft should not be completely covered until the tree has first flowered, otherwise the early flowering stimulated by the *M.kobus* root stock will be negated.

For the first time all trees have been pot grown in soilless mix rather than field grown. We have used the recently introduced 1 gallon size **air pruning pots**. Rootlets divide when in contact with the numerous air holes. The result is vastly better root growth and the elimination of most of the circular roots found in standard pots. We are delighted with our results so far. As always **quantities of some cultivars are very limited.**

If there is a cultivar that you are unable to obtain from other sources, we will be pleased to consider adding it to our list for propagation next season.

To order contact the Shop in the Garden at 604-822-4529 or Charlie at 604-929-5706 (evenings).

Trees will be ready for **pick-up from late February of 2009** although some may be obtained earlier by special arrangement.

GST & PST are extra.