**INTRODUCTION**

A striking tree in summer or winter (Fig. 1). The cultivar ‘Wada’s Memory’ has black-green leaves, large, six-inch, fragrant white blooms which appear before the leaves, and an upright or columnar growth habit (at least in youth). Dropping its large, six-inch leaves in fall with a yellow display of color, ‘Wada’s Memory’ forms an attractive dark green winter specimen. Young trees flower poorly. The pink fruits which develop split open to reveal bright red seeds, which sway from slender threads before dropping to the ground.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Scientific name:** *Magnolia kobus* ‘Wada’s Memory’  
**Pronunciation:** mag-NO-lee-uh KOE-bus  
**Common name(s):** ‘Wada’s Memory’ Kobus Magnolia, ‘Wada’s Memory’ Northern Japanese Magnolia  
**Family:** Magnoliaceae  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 8A (Fig. 2)  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); screen; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance  
**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**DESCRIPTION**

- **Height:** 25 to 30 feet  
- **Spread:** 25 to 35 feet  
- **Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms  
- **Crown shape:** oval; pyramidal; upright  
- **Crown density:** dense  
- **Growth rate:** medium
**Texture:** coarse

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** entire; undulate
- **Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); obovate
- **Leaf venation:** banchidodrome; pinnate
- **Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- **Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** yellow
- **Fall characteristic:** showy

**Flower**

- **Flower color:** pink; white
- **Flower characteristics:** pleasant fragrance; spring flowering; very showy

**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape:** elongated; irregular
- **Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- **Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** pink; red
- **Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; no significant litter problem; showy

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; no thorns
- **Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure
- **Breakage:** resistant
- **Current year twig color:** brown; green
- **Current year twig thickness:** medium; thick

*Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.*
Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern but occasionally bothered by scale as are other Magnolias.

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Other**

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

Kobus Magnolia should be grown in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil. Probably not for poorly-drained areas but supposedly tolerant of soil with an alkaline pH. It appears to grow well in clay soil. It will be available at selected nurseries.

Propagation is easily done by cuttings.