



Magnolia denudata Yulan Magnolia¹

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INTRODUCTION

Also known as *Magnolia heptapeta*, this broad, spreading, deciduous tree has a relatively fast growth rate and eventually reaches 30 to 40 feet in height with an equal spread (Fig. 1). The crown is open and forms a rounded outline several years after planting in full sun. The off-white, saucer-shaped, six-inch-diameter, fragrant blooms appear on the trees before the emergence of the seven-inch-long, dark green leaves. The blooms are followed by five-inch-long, brown fruits which ripen in early fall to reveal the bright red, inner seeds. Although there is no appreciable fall color change, the multi-stemmed, irregular form of Yulan Magnolia makes it quite striking in the winter garden after the leaves have fallen.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Magnolia denudata*

Pronunciation: mag-NO-lee-uh den-yoo-DAY-tuh

Common name(s): Yulan Magnolia

Family: *Magnoliaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 8A (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; espalier; recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; specimen

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

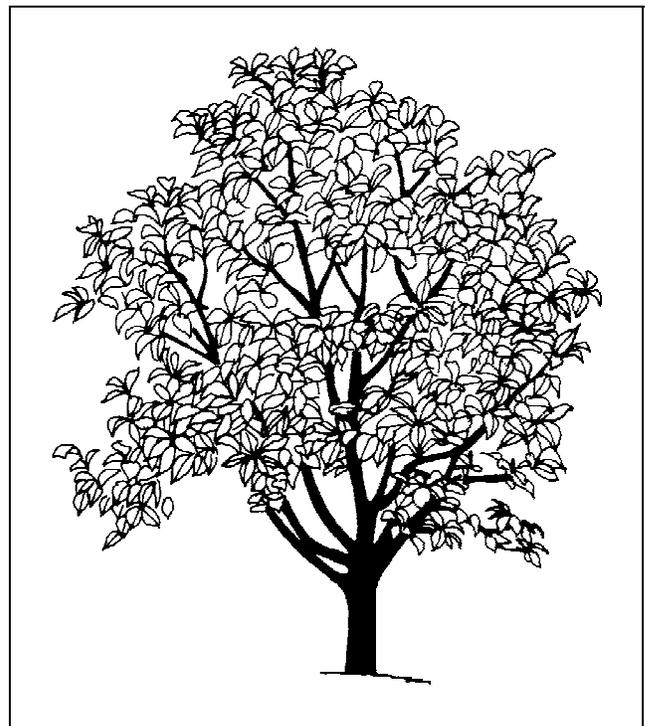


Figure 1. Middle-aged Yulan Magnolia.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 30 to 40 feet

Spread: 30 to 40 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: round; spreading

Crown density: open

Growth rate: medium

Texture: coarse

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-378, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.
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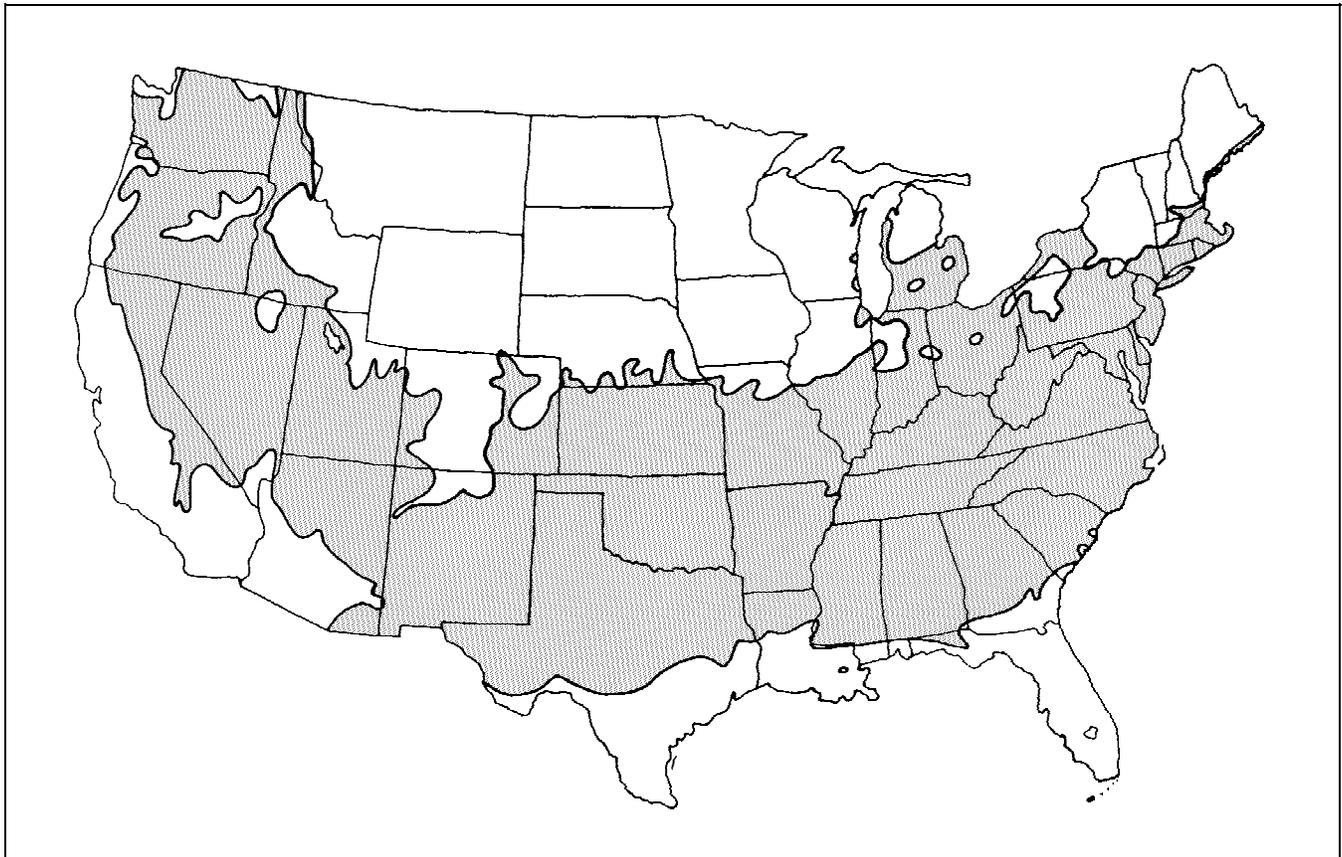


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** oblong; obovate
- Leaf venation:** banchidodrome; pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

Flower

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

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** elongated
- Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches
- Fruit covering:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** brown; 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; droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; no thorns
- Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure
- Breakage:** resistant
- Current year twig color:** brown; green
- Current year twig thickness:** medium

Culture

- Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained
- Drought tolerance:** moderate

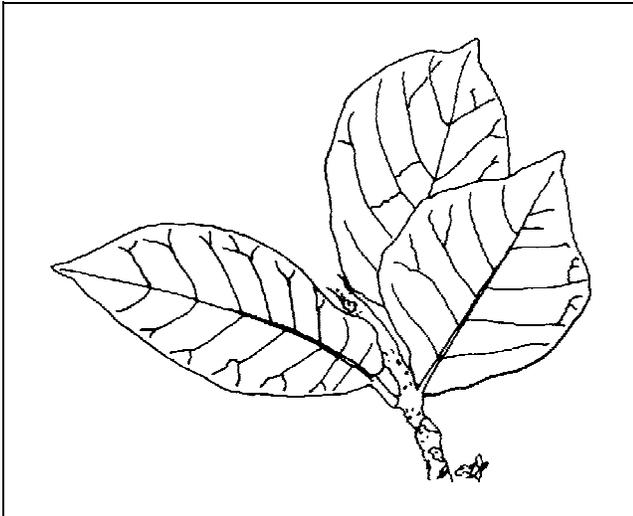


Figure 3. Foliage of Yulan Magnolia.

Propagation is by seed sown immediately after ripening, since they will quickly lose their viability. Sometimes cuttings of these trees are grafted onto *Magnolia x soulangiana*

Pests and Diseases

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

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

Ozone sensitivity: tolerant

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: susceptible

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

This small tree is best used as a patio tree for shade and accent due to the low branching habit, attractive foliage and striking gray bark. It would look very nice lining an entrance walk to a commercial building or in a double or single row set back from an entrance roadway or long driveway. Grows well in urban areas but avoid poor, compacted soil. Nice for an urban garden.

Yulan Magnolia should be grown in full sun or partial shade on rich, moisture-retentive soil in an area protected from harsh, dry winds. Plants should not be exposed to overly wet or dry conditions.

Available cultivars include: 'Japanese Clone', larger flowers; 'Lacey', flowers up to eight inches across. Yulan Magnolia was used as a parent plant along with *Magnolia acuminata* to produce the hybrid 'Elizabeth' which has a pyramidal shape and clear yellow, fragrant blooms.