Admire the sights and scents on the branches of more than 200 elegant trees, as velvety silver buds and saucer-sized pink, white, and magenta flowers make an appearance in this always spectacular annual bloom at the Garden.

Endemic to Asia and the New World, Magnolias are ancient flowering trees that have endeared themselves to humans for millennia. Here in cool, foggy San Francisco, we cultivate species from across most of their range, from the monsoon-influenced, temperate forests of the Himalayas to the cloud forests of Mesoamerica.

Be sure to visit the Garden’s website for a complete list of activities celebrating this magnificent bloom!

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**Highlights Walk 2021**

Look for **Pink Signs** in the Garden to identify highlighted plants, and see reverse for descriptions of each. You can also scan QR codes on signage for additional information and photos.

1. Magnolia laevifolia ‘Strybing Compact’
2. Magnolia campbellii ‘Darjeeling’
3. Magnolia dawsoniana
4. Magnolia hodgsonii
5. Magnolia sharpii
6. Magnolia macrophylla var. dealbata
7. Magnolia sargentiana
8. Magnolia liliflora
9. Magnolia x soulangeana ‘Rustic Rubra’
10. Magnolia campbellii
11. Magnolia campbellii
12. Magnolia denudata
13. Magnolia campbellii ‘Strybing White’
14. Magnolia delavayi
15. Magnolia doltsopa
16. Magnolia ‘Royal Crown’
17. Magnolia × alba
18. Magnolia × veitchii
19. Magnolia campbellii ‘Late Pink’
20. Magnolia grandiflora ‘Russet’
21. Magnolia sprengeri
22. Magnolia guatemalensis
23. Magnolia zenii
24. Magnolia amoena
25. Magnolia stellata ‘Rosea’
ABOUT THE MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIA GARDEN COLLECTION

In the winter of 1940, horticultural history was made at the newly-opened San Francisco Botanical Garden when its exotic cup and saucer magnolia (Magnolia campbellii) became the first of its kind to bloom in the United States. Huge crowds of excited and curious visitors stood in long lines to see the stunning, large, pink blossoms of this famous Magnolia that still stands in the Garden today (map #10). That was just the beginning. The Garden is now home to more than 200 Magnolias—many rare and historic. The Garden’s current collection includes 63 species and 49 cultivars. This collection is the most significant for conservation purposes in the United States. Read about the Garden’s prized specimens and enjoy!

1 Magnolia campbellii "Stybing Compact" – This cultivar of Magnolia campbellii was selected here at San Francisco Botanical Garden. It was selected for its compact, more shrub-like form, while the straight species can grow up to heights of 3 meters. Blooms March – April.

2 Magnolia campbellii "Darjeeling" – Thought by many to be the most spectacular of all the Magnolias that bloom at the Garden, this Himalayan selection was propagated from a tree at the Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling, India, and offers magnificent deep pink flowers emerging on leafless branches for a dramatic display.

3 Magnolia campbellii - This endangered Magnolia from China, named after the first superintendent of Harvard University’s Arnold Arboretum, Jackson Thornton Dawson, has large pink flowers—up to 25 centimeters or 10 inches—that droop with age and resemble flags slowing in the wind.

4 Magnolia hodgsonii – Magnolia hodgsonii is an understory tree of primary evergreen mixed tropical rainforest which grows at an elevation between 900-1,500 meters. This species is recorded to exist in only 15 sites locations worldwide. Our M. hodgsonii represents a mature specimen nearing peak height.

5 Magnolia sharpii – This endangered Magnolia is only known from five locations in the cloud forests of the Chiapas region in Mexico. There it is threatened with habitat destruction due to human activities such as timber harvesting and agriculture.

6 Magnolia macrophylla var. dealbata – Commonly called bigleaf magnolia, this native of Mexico is appropriately named, as the handsome leaves can reach up to 30 inches in length. In the summer, the flowers are cream-colored with a semi-sweet scent.

7 Magnolia soulangeana – Present at the signing of the United Nations Charter, which took place at Cathedral Grove in Mürs Woods, Lord Cranborne of Salisbury presented this Magnolia to the United Nations. It is one of the first Magnolias to flower each year until 1953 and sparsely every other year until 1960 when it had more than a hundred flowers.

8 Magnolia liliiflora – Native to China, this compact, rounded, shrubby, deciduous Magnolia typically matures to 8 to 12 feet tall and as wide. Its goblet- or lily-shaped, purplishpink flowers appear in spring at the time of, or shortly before, leaf development. The specific epithet liliiflora indicates its flowers are lily-like.

9 Magnolia x soulangiana "Rusctica Rubra" – It was in 1820 when Etienne Soulange-Bodin pollinated M. soulangiana with M. liliiflora to produce the very popular M. x soulangiana. Since then many hybrids have been raised resulting in many different cultivars including "Rusctica Rubra", a Dutch clone raised at the end of the nineteenth century flowering in 1933. This particular tree was a gift from the Shanghai Botanical Garden, 25 inches when fully expanded.

10 Magnolia campbellii – Native to the Himalayas, the cup and saucer magnolia, also known as the pink tulip tree, was introduced to the U.S. in 1924. Planted by Eric Wallner, the Garden’s first Director, this specimen was the first of its species to bloom in the U.S. in 1940 and every year since then. Its large, fragrant flowers can reach up to 10 inches across, and they may be white or shades of light to deep pink. In 1838, the first M. campbellii found in the wild by western botanists was a white-flowered form.

11 Magnolia campbellii – Native to Southern China and Northern Vietnam, this species grows in subtropical broadleaf evergreen forests. Its timber is used for construction and to build furniture, while its dense foliage and fragrant flowers make it a valued ornamental.

12 Magnolia denudata – The first Magnolia from the East introduced to the western world when brought to England in 1780, it is one of the parents of the Michelia hybrids. Called the “yulan” or “jade orchid” by the Chinese, and featuring exquisite, pure white blossoms, M. denudata has the longest known history of cultivation among magnolias, dating back to the Tang Dynasty –618 C.E. Its beauty was celebrated on ancient Chinese embroideries, scrolls, and panels in scenes of the countryside.

13 Magnolia campbellii "Stybing White" – The largest Magnolia at the Garden, towering over 80 feet, this special white form of the species was grown from seed purchased in India in 1934, propagated at the Golden Gate Park Nursery, and planted here in 1940.

14 Magnolia denudata – Commonly known as Delavay’s magnolia. This evergreen is endemic to China. In the spring its creamy white flowers tend to open at night and only last for one day.

15 Magnolia doltsopa – An evergreen Magnolia formerly known as Michelia doltsopa. This endangered Magnolia from China, named after Charles F. Strybing, is a woody shrub or small tree, attractive to bees and pollinating insects. A cross between M. campbellii and M. denudata, it was originally produced by Robert Veitch in 1907.

16 Magnolia campbellii ‘Late Pink’ – Introduced at the Garden from seed purchased in 1914 from G. Ghose & Co. in Darjeeling, India, the flowers of this Magnolia appear 2 to 4 weeks later than other M. campbellii cultivars in our collection.

17 Magnolia campbellii ‘Royal Crown’ – This evergreen Magnolia native to southeastern United States is notable for its attractive, dark green leaves and its large, extremely fragrant flowers. The specific epithet grandiflora is from Latin meaning “large flowers.” Indeed, the flowers can be up to twelve inches across.

18 Magnolia campbellii – Native to China, this deciduous Magnolia is appropriately named, as the handsome leaves can reach up to 30 inches in length. In the summer, the flowers are cream-colored with a semi-sweet scent.

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BOOKSTORE & PLANT ARBOR

Enjoy special Magnolia items in the Garden Bookstore. Purchase a plant at the Plant Arbor and bring the Garden home! Open Fri–Sun, 10am–4pm.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN

SFBG offers 55 acres of gardens displaying more than 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world. In addition to winter’s Magnolia bloom, the Garden features a bounty of other seasonal highlights, including a century-old Redwood Grove, as well as Mesoamerican, Andean, and Southeast Asian cloud forest collections, among other unique global plant collections.

To get the latest updates on magnolias in bloom, follow us on Instagram (@sfbgarden.org), Facebook (facebook.com/SanFranciscoBotanicalGarden), and Twitter (@SFBG). For more about the Garden, visit sfbg.org.

BECOME A MEMBER

Support the Garden and enjoy great benefits year-round:

- Free admission (with a Guest) to the Garden 365 days a year
- 10% Discount at the Plant Arbor, the Bookstore, and local nurseries
- Reciprocal membership at over 300 public gardens
- Discounted tickets and pre-sales for popular programs like Garden Camp and Holiday Wreath Making

With limited public funding, your community support is crucial.

Join today at just $70. Sign up at the kiosk or online at sfbg.org/membership.

CHECK OUT THE MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIAS ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

HERE’S HOW:

1. Open your smart phone’s camera app.
2. Point phone on QR code on numbered pink label
3. Tap link that will appear on screen
4. Learn more about each featured Magnolia on Garden Explorer.