



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Magnolia* x 'Elizabeth'**¹

Edward F. Gilman²

Introduction

Young 'Elizabeth' Magnolia are distinctly upright, becoming more oval with age (Fig. 1). Blooms open in late winter in the southern part of its range to early spring in the northern part of its range before the leaves emerge. Flowers are large and yellow creating a spectacular flower display. Even young trees can develop a beautiful flower display. However, a late frost can often ruin the flowers in all areas where it is grown.

General Information

Scientific name: *Magnolia* x 'Elizabeth'

Pronunciation: mag-NO-lee-uh

Common name(s): 'Elizabeth' Magnolia

Family: *Magnoliaceae*

Plant type: tree

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

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: near a deck or patio

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

Description

Height: 20 to 35 feet

Spread: 18 to 25 feet

Plant habit: pyramidal; round

Plant density: open

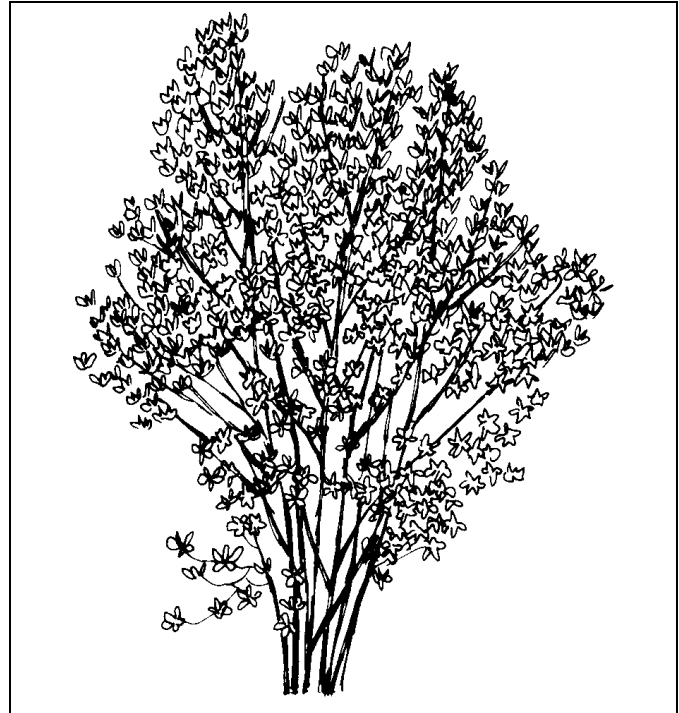


Figure 1. 'Elizabeth' Magnolia.

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: coarse

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: undulate

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-363, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Leaf shape: obovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristic: spring flowering; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown

Fruit length: unknown

Fruit cover: dry or hard

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristic: rarely fruits; attracts birds

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: no thorns; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; acidic;

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

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

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

The tree is best used as a specimen in a sunny spot where it can develop a symmetrical crown. It develops an open canopy but flowers fine in a partially shaded spot. It can be pruned up if planted close to a walk or patio to allow for pedestrian clearance but probably looks its best when branches are left to droop to the ground. The light gray bark shows off nicely, particularly during the winter when the tree is bare.

Transplant balled and burlapped plants in the spring, just before growth begins, or containerized plants. Pruning wounds may not close well, so train plants early in their life to develop the desired form to avoid large pruning wounds.

Pests and Diseases

It is generally pest free, but scales of various types may infest twigs and foliage. Magnolia may be subject to leaf spots. Canker diseases will kill entire branches.