



Magnolia kobus 'Wada's Memory' 'Wada's Memory' Kobus Magnolia¹

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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



Figure 1. Young 'Wada's Memory' Kobus Magnolia.

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

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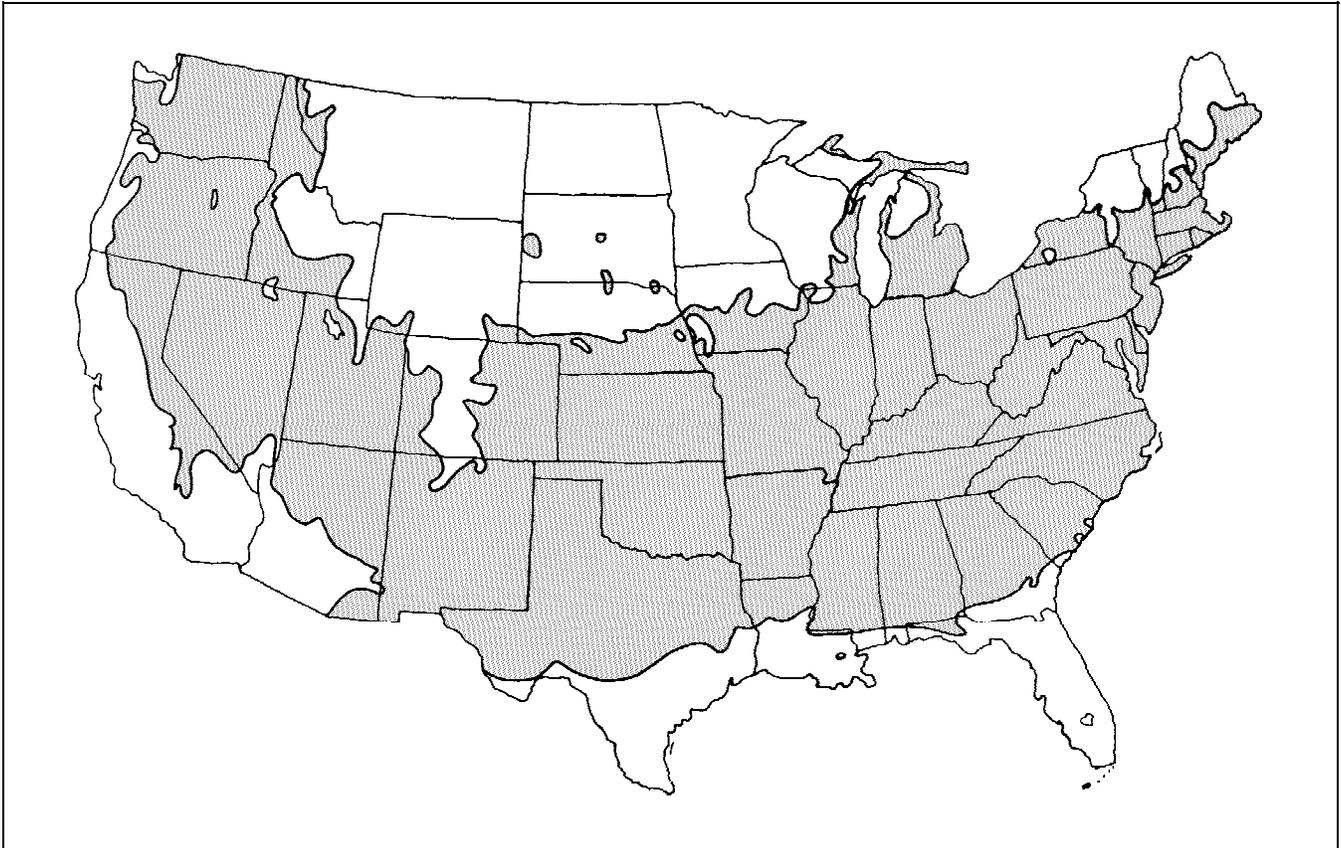


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

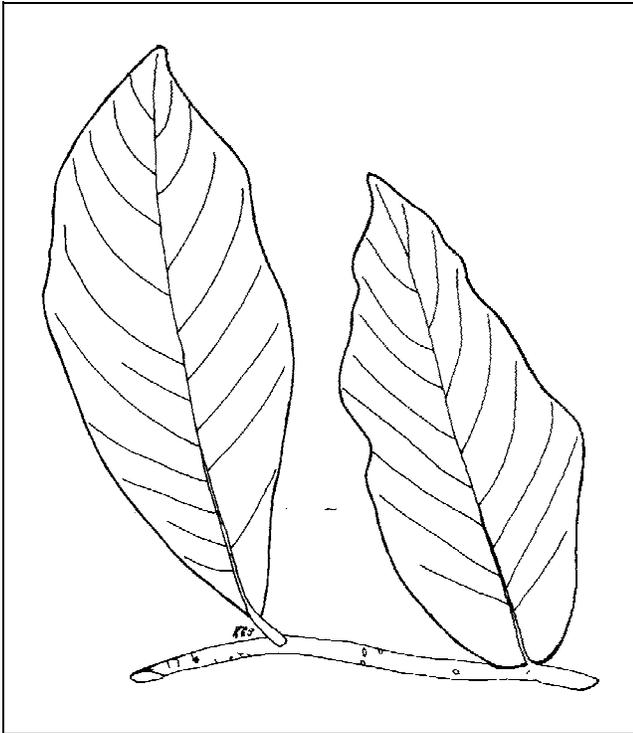


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Wada's Memory' Kobus Magnolia.

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.