

*hypoleuca* at Wisley, and, the outer tepals of *M. tripetala* 'Bloomfield' and *M. × watsonii* have a pretty pink cast. These last two having been crossed, perhaps (with considerable luck) the garden virtues of each may combine in a hardy small tree of more symmetrical growth than *watsonii*, with large sweet-smelling pink tinted flowers produced on very young plants.

Phil and I look forward to the development of the intra-Rytidospermum hybrids we have already made, and would like to see others make additional selections and crosses. Who else is working along this line of breeding? \*\*\*

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## Arnold Arboretum's 'Centennial', a new *M. Stellata*

by J. C. McDANIEL

The star magnolia from Japan is variously regarded as a species in its own right, or a botanical variety of *M. kobus*. Currently, the botanists at the L. H. Bailey Hortorium who are preparing the manuscript of Hortus Third call it a species, *M. stellata* (Sieb. & Zucc.) Maxim., and the American Magnolia Society is going along with that usage in the Magnolia Checklist.

The newest cultivar to be registered in *M. stellata* (in 1972) is 'Centennial', an origination of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. It was named and distributed to other arboreta in conjunction with the Arnold's centennial celebrations that year.

'Centennial' originated from one of 737 seed collected in the fall of 1942 from AA5186 (*M. stellata* 'Rosea' obtained from Veitch nurseries in 1900). A large number of seedlings were raised, of which some at flowering time proved to be white flowered. One of this lot (AA775-42) proved to be outstanding. It is the original 'Centennial', 30 years old in 1972. Robert S. Hebb, then assistant horticulturist at the Arnold Arboretum, gave the following data:

"Tepals 28-33; 4-5 cm. long; 0.7-1.5 cm. broad; flower color pure white with none of the pink of the seed parent. In ornamental value this surpasses other clones of *M. stellata* in our collection. As compared to *M. stellata* 'Waterlily', the most obvious differences are in tepal length (3-4 cm. for 'Waterlily') and the more open flower habit (5 1/2 in. diameter) of 'Centennial'." Thirty-three nurseries received plants from the Arnold Arboretum in 1973, including two wholesale propagators in Rhode Island who are rooting cuttings for future sale to retailers. Newsletter advertisers will offer 'Centennial' as soon as stocks are developed.

Presumably, other nurseries can still get propagating material of 'Centennial' from the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130. We may see it in the trade in another year or two. Mr. Al Fordham, propagator at the A.A., says 'Centennial' is easy to root from greenwood cuttings so grafting is unnecessary.

Magnolia Society charter member, Frank B. Gaylon, M.D., may take some credit for the introduction of 'Centennial'. He saw it under number years ago, and said it had the largest flowers he had seen on a *M. stellata* anywhere. \*\*\*