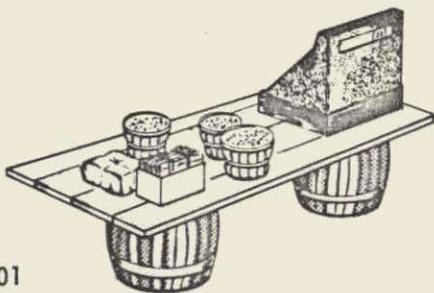


the Seed Counter

J.C. McDaniel, Prop.

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Don't forget to order your copy of the "Check List of the Cultivated Magnolias" from the Plant Sciences Data Center, American Horticultural Society, Mount Vernon, Va. 22121. Magnolia Society members in good standing may buy it for four dollars. This is a twenty percent discount.

- J.C.M.

Orders are still coming in every mail. The most popular item, by one point is No. 58 (*M. ashei* - Ill.) with seven orders to date.

There are six orders each for:

- No. 9 *salicifolia*
- No. 19 'Golden Glow' × 'Miss Honeybee'

There are five orders each for:

- No. 18 *acuminata* 'Busey' × *brooklynensis* 'Woodsman'
- No. 56 *wilsonii*
- No. 60 *fraseri*

There are four orders each for:

- No. 5 *loebneri* 'Leonard Messel'
- No. 24 *cordata* 'Miss Honeybee' prob. ×
- No. 27 *liliflora* 'O'Neill' × *cylindrica*
- No. 30 *campbellii* tree 19
- No. 61 *hypoleuca*

There are three orders each for:

- No. 22 *cordata* × *acuminata*
- No. 29 *campbellii*
- No. 32 *denudata* o.p.
- No. 33 Late *denudata* × 'Diva'
- No. 41 'Lennei' × *cylindrica*
- No. 42 × 'Paul Cook'
- No. 46 *virginiana* Large flowers D.C.
- No. 55 *sieboldii*
- No. 62 *macrophylla* (spotted)
- No. 66 *macrophylla* 'Sara Gladney' (unspotted white)
- No. 68 *pyramidata* (Fla.)
- No. 69 *pyramidata* (Tex.)
- No. 73 *grandiflora* (Ill.)

One of the other coups of this most recent trip to Mexico was his collection of seeds of *Pinus martinesi*, which he says is the largest pine in the world, and has been known to taxonomists only about a dozen years. He didn't say where it occurs but was successful in getting seed. This trip took several hours of climbing by horseback up a mountain and he reports that the long climb completely exhausted him by the time he reached the growing site. Mr. Pfaffman is a lean, vital and vigorous man, eighty-five years of age!

We were on the telephone 30 or 40 minutes. He said he arrived at Chapulhuacan, the small town 20 miles south of Tamazunchale and a shorter distance south of the San Luis Potosi border, in the morning after spending the night in the larger town of Tamazunchale. This would have been Oct. 15 if he stuck to his original tentative itinerary. Chapulhuacan, as you know, is the area mentioned to us by Dr. J. Rzedowski as the place where he collected herbarium material of *M. dealbata* 20 years ago.

Best regards,
Harold

A PROGRESS REPORT FROM MC DANIEL

Magnolia dealbata Zucc. arrived alive at Urbana, Illinois on November 4, 1975, half a month after collection in Hidalgo state, Mexico by Mr. George Pfaffman of Alabama. The material consisted of basal sprouts (one with roots started in natural moss attached to the stem) and several callused hardwood cuttings with live buds, some of them starting to grow. Mr. Pfaffman and American Magnolia Society member, Lynn Lowrey, (Rt. 1, Box 269, Conroe, Texas 77301) have promised further details on the *M. dealbata* trees in Hidalgo's Sierra Madre Orientale.

The *M. dealbata* shoots and the accompanying deciduous leaves look like those of *M. macrophylla* Michx. of the eastern United States forests between Louisiana, Georgia, and Ohio. Further investigation may indicate that they are very closely related - perhaps even races of the same species.

The above cuttings in mist bed at around 85 degrees F. continue to elongate shoots, one of which already has a small leaf unfolded. I have grafted a small *M. hypoleuca* plant into this one as a nurse stock. I used most of the basal sprout growth as cuttings, but smaller-diameter wood is in storage for grafting later, here and at Gloster Arboretum this winter and spring.

J. C. McDaniel

the flowers within reach. I noticed that several trees were evidently sprouts from stumps. My guide said that in the past he had seen magnolias where we were that had attained a height of seventy or eighty feet, some of them had a diameter of ten inches. During flowering time, no magnolia flower is likely to escape being picked in the vicinity. Therefore, no production of seed could be expected. In the course of our examination of the magnolia trees my guide cut a number of twigs, stems and sprouts. I had brought along some moistened sphagnum moss for packing the propagating material. As a supplement we also used some live moss collected from the surrounding larger tree trunks. The moss covered propagating material was then wrapped in plastic sheeting.

I noted in some literature that the botanist, J. Rzedowski, reported having seen trees of *Magnolia dealbata* three kilometers NNE of Chapulhuacan in an altitude of 1400 meters. It is probable that the trees he saw were in the same area where I saw trees of this species. It was twenty years earlier when he saw magnolias in the area.

In further talks, my guide stated that in winter all tender vegetation freezes down within the area where the magnolias occur. It is likely then that this species is hardy enough to survive in Mobile County, Alabama.

On directing further questions to my guide, he stated that this magnolia also occurs in more remote areas where the flower pickers do arrive but don't get to pick all the magnolia flowers. It is likely then that some seedlings might be found there. Of course, more likely would be the possibility of finding some viable seed at a certain time of the year.

The descent to my parked pickup was made without any difficulty. Then the drive down to Chapulhuacan was accomplished easily in a short time. It was a most beautiful day for making such a trip. We were lucky, for it could have started to rain. There was plenty of evidence at various altitudes of rain having fallen a day or so before. As I felt my guide had done very well, I gave him one hundred fifty pesos which perhaps was a little more than he expected. Many another person of less humble status would have expected more. After taking leave of him and his boy I proceeded on to Tamazunchale where, on arrival, I registered at the Hotel Mirador, a place more satisfactory and of less cost than the place where I stayed the night before.

I continued the next day on towards Laredo, Texas, but made several seed collecting stops before arriving there. All the plant material that I had collected was passed through Plant Quarantine without difficulty. I then proceeded on to Mr. Lynn Lowrey's nursery which is located about twenty five miles north of Houston. On arrival there, the magnolia propagating material was unpacked for mailing to Prof. Joseph C. McDaniel, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. I first kept a few cuttings and of these I put a few into the ground as soon as I got home. The others I gave to Mr. Tom Dodd Jr. of Semmes, Ala. to try to grow in his elaborate equipment. I took a few pictures while in the Chapulhuacan area. One already mentioned was of the mountain as seen from the recreation hall at the entrance to Chapulhuacan, the others were taken on the summit of the mountain where the magnolia trees occur. Only one taken on the summit turned out well, the one where my guide and his boy are

that I was looking for. The police chief said he knew the flower and also knew the place where the trees occur. Also, he offered to guide me to the place. He said to meet him the next day (Sunday) at 9:00 a.m. in front of the nearby municipal building. The highway patrolman pointed to two peaks in the distance to the north. Then he said the higher one is the one you will ascend tomorrow, for it is the one where you will find the magnolia. I took a picture of the two mountain peaks. As I found out later, the ascent was not as easy, as the picture might indicate. I then drove on to Tamazunchale, about twenty miles to the north, and stopped overnight at Quinta Chilla. The grounds were magnificent and so were the rooms but the service was poor. There was no hot water and there were no chairs. The charge was 125 pesos. The food was nothing extra.

The next morning I was at the municipal building of Chapulhuacan ahead of time. The police chief showed up at about half past nine o'clock. He said he would be back soon. And, really he was back in a short time accompanied by a middle-aged man and the latter's son. The police chief said he was sorry that he could not go, as he had many other things to do. However, he said further, that the man by him was very capable and would serve as an excellent guide. I soon expressed my approval and then with the guide and his boy who appeared to be about twelve years old we started off. I had some misgivings about driving up the mountain but although the road was narrow and slightly rough, I got along very nicely by driving slowly. At length the guide said I had driven far enough and that the rest of the way would be on foot. We got out, I locked the cab, and we started to walk. Some of the way was down, but most of it was up and up. My lungs became taxed very heavily and at times I felt like I could not continue any farther but after some short rests I would resume the climb. The guide said the mountain is called El Jarro, meaning the jug, an allusion perhaps to the shape of the mountain.

It was about noon when we got to the summit after which the going was much easier. The guide said he had visited these parts from time to time for the past thirty years. Intermingled with some brush were oaks of huge proportions. Sweet gum was also noticed. Not uncommonly seen were what I would call tomato trees, about twelve feet tall and bearing red spindle-shaped fruits. They were definitely solanaceous trees. I tasted some of the fruit pulp. It had a decidedly rich tomato flavor. Some of the oaks appeared to be at least a hundred feet tall with clean straight bole. We came to a dry stump where someone had done some chopping recently. The guide said it was a tree called mora. Large trees of it had formerly stood in the forest but all had been cut down and hauled away. He knew of no live trees of this species left in the forest. We examined some chips of this wood at the stump. They were yellow and unusually heavy. The wood is said to be very durable.

But we had come to this area primarily to see the magnolia trees. In our walks around in the forest we must have come to about a dozen trees. The tallest ones that I saw were about thirty feet high. The guide said that during flowering time, people come and pick all the blooms that they can find. If flowers were found on a tall tree, the tree would be cut down in order to bring