

magnolias, but other methods may be used either outdoors or under glass in season. Wherever it is done, plastic films can replace the messy old-time grafting wax. The small nurseryman, and even the amateur, can learn a good method in a little while, which can change the customary magnolia of his area to a custom job, through grafting.

Building on the customary seedling or mass-produced tree as a stock, the propagator of custom trees can multiply the best of the old and the brightest of the new cultivars, except those few which are covered by a Plant Patent. Even the patented cultivars are available for free propagation, after the seventeen year term of a Plant Patent expires. It has already expired, for instance, on the *stellata* hybrid 'George Henry Kern', which received its patent in 1949.

The nondescript 79¢ magnolia will satisfy some customers. Am I wrong, though, in believing that many more will be satisfied by the offerings of a grower who has a reasonably extensive cultivar list, all properly labeled? There will be fewer gardeners, in the nature of things, who will plant a dozen magnolia trees, than there are who regularly plant (and often replace) a dozen or a hundred rose bushes. But there are some, and they will often want more than just "a magnolia." I think there is a clientele waiting, in at least 20 metropolitan areas around the U.S., for semi-specialized nurserymen who will propagate and offer more of the "custom" jobs in *Magnolia*, among other trees and shrubs adapted to their own area. \*\*\*

---

## 'SAMUEL SOMMER' is a superior *Magnolia grandiflora*

by JAMES ROWLAND BURGESS, Jr.

Specimen trees of the *Magnolia grandiflora* cultivar, 'Samuel Sommer' have proved to be outstanding on the campus of Reinhardt College, Waleska, Georgia. Two trees planted in 1964 on the southeastern slope of a windswept hill in full sun have grown well, bloomed profusely, and have shown remarkable ability to withstand low temperatures, ice, snow and high winds.

Foliage is dark green, heavily veined, with attractive brown indumentum on undersides of leaves. The trees bloomed in 1965 and since 1970 have averaged fifty to sixty blooms per tree. Blooms are from ten to fourteen inches across.

On January 29, 1966 the temperature dropped to -12 F. with six inches of snow. Bark which was severely split near the base of each tree was unobserved at the time, but the trees healed themselves.

In August, 1973, a tornado which felled a dozen trees including mature oaks and pines, completely destroyed two twenty-two year old sugar maples sixty and fifty feet from each of the magnolias.

On three occasions snow and/or winds have severely damaged a St. Mary and a seedling *magnolia grandiflora* on the campus, but not one of four 'Samuel Sommer' trees has ever lost a limb from ice, snow, or wind. \*\*\*