

(For more on transplanting large magnolias, see Kenneth Harms' article in this newsletter, next issue. *Ed.*)

"Fischer . . . said magnolias, commonly thought of as slow-growing trees, will actually spurt two to three feet a year 'if properly handled.'"

He first prepared his soil to grow trees by turning under a green manure crop for two years. "Now he feeds the magnolias four times a year — in January, March, May and October. A fertilizer without nitrogen is used in late October, when the emphasis is on strengthening the roots. For the other feedings, [he] uses what is actually a high-grade balanced cotton fertilizer with trace elements he found to be necessary in building up the soil."

Magnolia Forest is on Morgan's River, a flow parallel to the Pearl, and its water is sometimes used for irrigation.

Fischer's interest is solely in *M. grandiflora* seedlings. In a May, 19, 1976 letter to Ginnie Melnick, he writes: "We also have quite a few of the *Magnolia virginiana*, but these we do not attempt to cultivate nor sell . . ."

"This started out to be a retirement project and while I have retired from business as a manufacturer's agent, it is impossible to retire from handling these magnolias."

Some Latin American Magnolias

One of the Magnolia Robin members asked for an enumeration of the magnolias in the Americas, south of continental U.S. Estimates vary, since some from South America have recently been assigned to a new genus *Dugandiodendron* by a Colombian botanist. There are about 18 members of *Magnolia* in Latin America according to the taxonomy which the late Mr. James Edgar Dandy supplied for *World Pollen and Spore Flora 3* (Stockholm, 1974). Only one is deciduous, the Mexican *M. dealbata* Zucc., precariously introduced in 1975 from Hidalgo state, Mexico, to the U.S. All others are evergreen, and most are

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probably diploids, and are referred to Section *Theorhodon*, like our own *M. grandiflora* L. (*M. grandiflora* is mainly hexaploid, and the hexaploid chromosome count is also reported for the Mexican *M. schiedeana* Schlectend.)

Distribution given below is mostly according to Dandy, who reports some species with wider distribution than previously published.

Section *Rytidospermum*

M. dealbata Zucc. — typified from Veracruz state; seen recently in Oaxaca and Hidalgo states, Mexico. A close relative of *M. macrophylla*.

Section *Theorhodon*

**M. chimantensis* Steyerl. & Maguire — S.E. Venezuela

M. cubensis Urban — Oriente Province, Cuba

M. emarginata Urban & Ekman — Haiti

M. domingensis Urban — Haiti

M. ekmanii Urban — Haiti

M. guatemalensis Donn. Sm. — Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras (diploid)

M. hamori Howard — Dominican Republic (diploid)

M. pallescens Urban & Ekman — Dominican Republic

M. poasana (Pittier) Dandy — Costa Rica (*M. yoroconte* Dandy from Honduras and one that McDaniel collected in Chiapas are much like *M. poasana*.)

M. portoricensis Bello — western Puerto Rico

**M. ptaritepuiana* Steyerl. (syn. *M. roraimae* Steyerl.) — southeast Venezuela

M. schiedeana Schlectend. — several states in Mexico (hexaploid)

M. sharpii Miranda — eastern Mexico (Chiapas)

M. sororum Siebert — Costa Rica, Panama

M. splendens Urban — eastern Puerto Rico

**M. striatifolia* Little — Ecuador

Most of these species are little, if at all cultivated in their home countries. The island species have not been successfully introduced to the continental U.S. *M. schiedeana*, or something much like it, which Dandy believed was different, has grown and flowered rarely at the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle. McDaniel in 1964 collected live material of both *M. guatemalensis* and a glabrous leaved species from Chiapas. Both flowered in National Arboretum (greenhouse) and are now reported growing outdoors at the Huntington Botanical Garden in San Marino, California. John Druecker later introduced seeds of *M. sharpii* to California, where a good specimen has flowered recently in the Strybing Arboretum of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

Starred species (*) are perhaps members of the new genus *Dugandiodendron*, which shows some characters of *Magnolia* and some of *Talauma*.