

pollination are probably from "selfing" by its own flowers.

Breeders often must grow large populations to produce a superior new cultivar. In magnolia, where we still are in the pioneer era, improved hybrids may be expected, but not from every cross we make. Fine cultivars have been produced from older hybrid magnolias, such as *M. × soulangiana* and *M. × leobneri* (*M. kobus leobneri*). There is still room for improvement, but more noticeable results can be expected from crosses which have so far yielded only one or two named cultivars, or related crosses not yet tried.

My aim in doing the repeat crosses with *sieboldii* is to produce better cultivars for general garden use than the existing *M. × wieseneri* and *M. × 'Charles Coates'*, which have many good qualities but also some defects. For instance, we need more

vigorous growth than the trade clone of *wieseneri* usually exhibits, and a more heat resistant hybrid with flowers equal to 'Charles Coates.'

Some relatives of *M. sieboldii* might be employed for parallel crosses. Both *M. sieboldii* var. *sinensis* and *M. wilsonii* have good flowers but are less adapted to many American climates. Tor Nitzelius in Sweden has produced a hardy *wilsonii × hypoleuca* hybrid (yet to flower), and more recently has crossed *sieboldii × wilsonii*. In the Section Rytidospermum parentage, there are additional species to be tried: the American *M. fraseri* and *M. fraseri pyramidata* (*M. fraseri*), the Chinese *M. officinalis* and the more tender Himalayan *M. rostrata*.

I invite correspondence with others who are doing cross breeding with any magnolia in Section Oyama.

## The Seed Counter, 1979

by Perry F. Narten, Seed Chairman

As of February 22, the end of the ordering period, requests for 1400 or more packets of Magnolia seed were received from about 75 persons. Individual requests ranged from 2 to 160 packets. Requests for low availability categories "C" and "D" were as high as 20 adn 23 respectively for a single seed type.

The Counter's availability key was based on an assumed demand of 40 to 50 requestors because there were 40 persons ordering seeds for the 1978 Seed Counter. Due to the large number of requests this year some supplies were not enough to meet the demand. Your seed chairman has spread the supplies to meet the needs of an many requestors as possible, but with lower limits of two seeds per packet. Further—following the procedures used by the Royal Horticultural Society—requestors were ranked in a lottery and orders were filled according to that ranking. Persons contributing seed to the Counter who also ordered seed were given a point preference in this lottery. Persons with low numbers get most or all the seed types ordered. High numbers could get few or none of ordered seeds in the "C" and "D" availability categories.

Orders received after the February 22 closing date are honored only for those seed types for which there was a large supply and/or a low demand.

Your suggestions concerning this

distribution system or any other equitable system would be appreciated. The Seed Counter exists only because of the seed collection and sharing by the Society's members and friends. The voluntary time and costs these persons have contributed for the benefit of the Society should be fully appreciated by all requestors. I urge you to join them in supporting the 1980 Seed Counter by sending in contributions from the 1979 harvest year. Any amount or kind will be appreciated. Big packets from small contributions grow!

Persons who sent in seed after publication of the 1978-79 Seed Counter list:

• Eugene R. German: *M. sargentiana robusta*; *M. × soulangiana* 'Lennei Alba' (all floated).

• Mary E. Oleri: *M. salicifolia* 'Wada's Memory'; *M. kobus (stellata)* 'Royal Star'; *Styrax obassia*.

• Philip G. Seitner: *M. officinalis biloba*; *M. macrophylla*.

This is the second year we have offered non-magnolia seed. For the record there were requests this year for 117 packets of non-magnolia seed, 35 of which were for *Franklinia alatamaha*. The Society is grateful to those of you who also contributed toward shipping costs.

Where substitutions were not possible or the requestor asked that none be made, a credit was issued in that person for 1980.