

Magnolia Varieties

By: Melinda Sperl

There are several misconceptions about magnolias and the biggest is that there are only two types of magnolias, the large and a supposed dwarf, Little Gem. While there are over 50 varieties of magnolias not all are available or are good for our area. I have listed a few of the more common variety to help with choosing the right one for you. All magnolias prefer partial sun to part shade, slightly acidic soil and sandy loamy soil.

Little Gem grows to a size of 40-60 feet tall with a spread to 15 feet. As you can tell it is not a dwarf by any means. It is an evergreen tree and has the signature white fragrant flowers that magnolias are known for.

DD Blanchard Magnolia is very similar to the Little Gem and grows to 30' tall with a 15' average. Blooms summer and fall and has the great white flowers that have a great scent.

Southern Magnolia attains a grand height of 80' tall and 50' wide. This is the large beauty we all know from southern lore. All magnolias are slow growing but this one is the slowest but if given room to grow from the start it will give you a magnificent tree and splendid blooms.

Saucer Magnolias are an entirely different type of magnolia but boy are they worth taking a look at. Unlike their cousins above, they are not evergreen. They actually lose their leaves in the winter and then before they re-grow their leaves they bloom beautiful pink to red (depending on the variety) large fragrant flowers that will knock your socks off! They grow to 25' tall and 25' wide so they need room to grow.

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