

# Names

by J. C. McDANIEL

In the 19th Century, there was a tendency (among nurserymen, particularly) to call any new horticultural clone a new variety, or even a new species. In the mid-20th Century, among botanists, at least, the tendency is more often in the other direction for magnolias. Some things that were published as separate species are now combined, by part of the authorities, anyhow, into a single species, with one, two or more varieties, and perhaps a forma or two, in addition to the various recognized clonal cultivars under it. Horticulturists, meanwhile, have continued to make new clonal selections, including numerous interspecific hybrids. For some hybrids and hybrid groups, new botanical names have been published.

Hybrid botanical names are subject to the same rules of priority as are the names of natural species. So the full name of a given clonal cultivar can vary, depending on which authority we accept regarding its parentage, and the status accorded its parents. There are some clones for which only the seed parent is known with any degree of assurance.

Let's take a few examples among Asiatic Magnolias. First, the *loebneri* grex. Numerous clones of this have been grown from seed of the star magnolia, in some cases from seed produced after hand crossing with *M. kobus* pollen. Now the star magnolia, itself, has generally been called a separate species, *M. stellata*, but it is certainly closely related to *M. kobus*, and if it still exists in the wild, it is within a small part of the *M. kobus* range, on the Japanese island of Honshu. Dr. Benjamin Blackburn, citing the production of varying seedlings from *stellata* seed, some as dwarf as the seed parent, some intermediate, some like typical *kobus*, and some even as vigorous as the northern Japanese *M. kobus* var. *borealis*, in the 1950's published a proposed new status for the star magnolia as *M. kobus* var. *stellata*.

If we accept Blackburn's status for *stellata*, then *loebneri* is not an interspecific hybrid, but at most an intervarietal hybrid, *M. kobus* var. *loebneri*. If *stellata* is a full species, then its crosses with *M. kobus* are *M. × loebneri*.

Back-cross clones, such as my 'Ballerina', assumed to be ('Spring Snow' probably × 'Waterlily') will still be classified under *loebneri*, whether as a variety or a hybrid grex.

*M. salicifolia*, in cultivation, frequently has hybridized with both typical *M. kobus* and with *stellata*, so that many of its seedlings are not actually the pure species. *M. × proctoriana* was published for the *salicifolia* × *stellata* hybrids (or reciprocals) in 1939. Then, in 1952, the name *M. × kewensis* was published for hybrids combining *salicifolia* with *kobus*. If