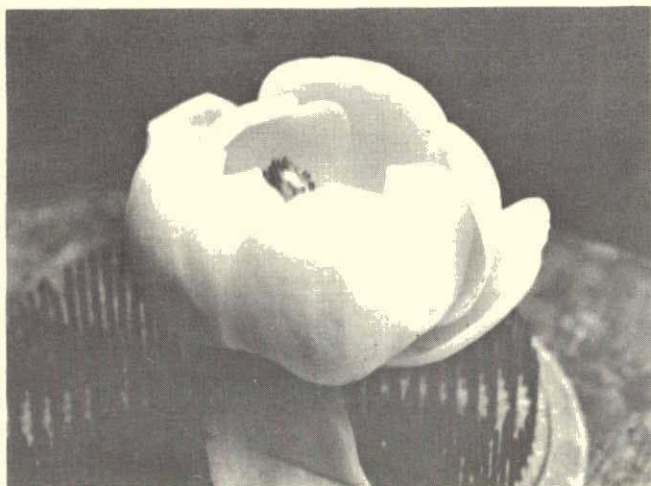


*Magnolia X Watsonii*  
Barnes Arboretum, May 17, 1976  
J. M. Fogg, Jr.



## Magnolia X Watsonii in the Philadelphia Area

by JOHN M. FOGG, Jr.

In November 1971, the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation in Merion obtained a small plant of *Magnolia X Watsonii* from the Gossler Farm Nursery in Springfield, Oregon.

Since considerable doubt has been expressed concerning the hardiness of this hybrid in the Philadelphia area, it is gratifying to report that our plant has flourished, is now about 3m. (10 ft.) tall and flowered for the first time in May 1976.

*M. X Watsonii* is a cross between *M. hypoleuca (obovata)* and *Sieboldii*. According to Millais, it is probably a natural hybrid, although it is apparently unknown in the wild state. It was introduced from Japan at the Paris Exposition in 1889.

I first saw *M. X Watsonii* at the Gulfstream Nursery in Wachapreague, Va. My wife and I were spending a week-end there and Jacques LeGendre had placed several flowers in a vase in our bedroom. The fragrance was almost overpowering and far exceeded that of any magnolia known to us.

It is hoped that this form will prove completely hardy in zone V and will find the place which it deserves in more collections. ★★★

Editors Note: It would appear that *M. X 'Watsonii'* has suffered (like many another magnolia) from an undeserved stigma of cold-tenderness. Established plants in Michigan are unhurt by 25° below zero F. Jim Gossler writes that it is a "best seller" at his nursery, and one of his top favorites.