



An Orchid Corsage

by PHILIP J. SAVAGE, Jr.

Magnolia 'Orchid' propagated by Kentucky's venerable Hillenmeyer Nursery, would appear to be a hybrid of *M. kobus* var. *stellata* and *M. liliflora*, and thus closely related to the National Arboretum's large family of this cross produced by Dr. William Kosar.

This clone has many desirable features for a large ornamental flowering shrub, and should be more widely used. Flowers are orchid outside and white inside, with an unexceptional shape. They have little scent and appear completely sterile, although I have not tested the pollen sufficiently to be certain the clone cannot be used as a male parent. Plant habit is excellent, spreading and graceful, and the abundant foliage is prettier than that of either presumed parent by far. It resembles to some extent, the foliage of *M. sprengeri* var. 'Diva'.

The photograph, taken by my son Peter, shows a twig of this clone bearing fourteen flower buds after a winter of -25 degrees F. ★★★