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# Newsletter

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**Advertising Rates on Request**

Most back issues are still available from Secretary-Treasurer. Her "Robin Notes" will resume in next issue.

The 1977 Seed Counter list is enclosed.

—COVER—

The Marine Museum grounds at Newport News, Virginia have this good specimen of *Magnolia grandiflora*, before which Richard B. Figlar snapped a picture on 31 May, 1976. The cover girl is his wife, Anita, who also appears on an inside page under Georgia's largest *M. grandiflora*. So far as we know, the Marine Museum's tree is a seedling, but its flowers are more than 12 inches in diameter, and have good symmetry. Mr. Figlar says the tree also has nice foliage.

Newport News is in U.S.D.A. plant hardiness zone 8, quite well adapted to growth of *M. grandiflora*, which is native as far north as coastal southeastern North Carolina and has been cultivated in Virginia since Colonial times. With 114 chromosomes, it's a genetically complex species, whose seedlings exhibit much variability in growth habit, leaf size, shape and color, and size, shape and season of abundance of its flowers. These variations have led to the selection of more than 150 vegetatively propagated cultivars, some of which are available from American nurseries.