

somewhat larger and taller, offering a good substitute. We might hope they wouldn't do so well in competition with native plants that they would reach the point of undesirability, as have other Asian plants such as Japanese and Amur honeysuckle, various privets, the fast growing *Ailanthus* in the north, and chinaberry, mimosa, and kudzu in the south.

I have been talking to some AMS members who own suitable woodland where they might be willing to establish a small colony of this *M. kobus* variety for testing to see how well it does in competition with the run of forest trees. Whatever is learned may require a number of years until the trees grow up and begin throwing seeds in normal woodland.

Magnolia virginiana among our natives will under ideal conditions produce even larger numbers of offspring in natural settings and also will spread by coppicing in wet places that are not heavily wooded. But neither this nor any other *Magnolia* I know of except *M. kobus* will produce large numbers of seedlings in ordinary city residential areas. It would be interesting to know if this big *M. kobus*, formerly known as *M. kobus borealis*, produces similar heavy crops of seedlings in its home ranges in Japan and Korea. Information on the subject and on naturalizing *Magnolia* in general would be welcome from AMS members.

These vigorous seedlings have been a bonus to me and a couple of other AMS members in this area for use as rootstocks in grafting and budding. Not all scions and buds I have placed on *M. kobus* understocks have stuck there, but I'm still trying to learn grafting techniques, and I can't hold these vigorous stocks responsible for my own shortcomings. As for the management of the apartments, they don't mind me and a few other AMS members keeping some of the seedlings cleaned out. Spring freezes spoil the fruit sets about every other year, so the quirks of nature, combined with some industrious "weed" pulling by some AMS members, keep the apartment dwellers from being swallowed in a jungle of *M. kobus*. —Editor.

NOTE: AMS member W. E. Benua has reported some *M. kobus* as scattering seedlings in his Ohio pine tree plantation. The natives *M. tripetala* and (farther south) *M. grandiflora* will sometimes produce volunteer seedlings in woods near cultivated trees. In Urbana, Illinois, *M. X loebneri*, part of the *M. kobus* complex, also has produced natural seedlings under yew hedges in the garden where the old original 'Spring Snow' cultivar and another *loebneri* tree stand.

Magnolia Authority Dandy Dies

J. E. Dandy, the British taxonomist and world known authority on the family *Magnoliaceae*, who has been a contributor to and a reader of this Newsletter, died November 10, 1976. A copy of his obituary in the London Times was sent to us but has been mislaid and a second copy has been requested, from which we hope to quote in the next issue.