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A Note About This Issue

This box is where we usually comment on the cover illustration, but *Magnolia kobus* 'Merrill' needs no help from an editor to capture both attention and affection, so we'll take this space to talk about our noble experiment of dropping in distribution maps of 8 American magnolias throughout Phil Savage's article, "Gathering Gold Dust," within. *M. acuminata*, *grandiflora*, and *virginiana* appeared in Vol. 1, Atlas of U.S. Trees (1971), by E. M. Little, U.S. Forest Ser-

vice. The other five appeared in Vol. 4, Atlas of U.S. Trees - Minor Eastern Hardwoods (1977) by the same author and publisher. The question is whether the drastic reduction in size of these maps in our reproduction will still give AMS members a reasonably good idea of the distribution pattern of each species. On the *M. virginiana* map we shaved off one small part of the range at Cape Ann, Massachusetts.