

# New Magnolia Names From England

by Joseph C. McDaniel

We have come to expect Cornwall and other counties in southern England to be the sources for beautiful magnolias, some of which have been adapted to general culture in America, others only to our most favored climates. The list continues to grow. Neil G. Treseder's *Magnolias* (to be published late in 1978) describes some cultivars not known to be in America and not included in the 1975 *Check List of the Cultivated Magnolias*.

One, a really old cultivar named 'Osaka,' was formerly grown at Gauntlett's Nursery in Cornwall and received a R.H.S. Award of Merit when exhibited at the Cornwall Daffodil and Spring Flower Show at Truro, 15 April 1902. He quotes K. Wada of Japan as saying the correct name for this magnolia in Japan is 'Sarasa,' and refers to the clone depicted by the Japanese botanist Keisuke Ito in *Figures and Descriptions of Plants in the Koishikawa Botanical Garden* 1: Fig. 10 (1883) under *M. obovata* Thunb.

A translation of the Japanese text says it was looked upon as a "strain" of what is now called *M. quinquepeta* (liliflora). Ito describes branches and leaves similar to the species, but flowers somewhat smaller, with 8 or 9 tepals, colored white with faint violet shadings on their inner surfaces, the outside reddish purple to white at the tips. [Except for being smaller flowered, this description fits cv. 'O'Neill' very well.] However, the copy in the British Museum (Natural History) has a Fig. 10 that does not agree with the text description, "the tepals being a pale shade of rosy lilac."

'Osaka' in 1902 was described as having "magnificent purple flowers from May to July, being almost black in the bud and forming a bush about 6 ft." [Except for its shorter growth this agrees closely with a *M. quinquepeta* specimen now growing on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington.] The successors to Gauntlett's Nursery no longer have a specimen that fits this description, but possibly it can be relocated in the Osaka district where it is supposed to have originated. It should be worth pursuing under the Japanese name *Sarasa-mokuren* or *Sarasa-rengé*.

*M. × loebneri* (or *M. kobus loebneri*)

'Snowdrift' is one of Kache's original batch of Loebner hybrids (or crosses) grown on at the Hillier Nurseries in Winchester, England. As described by H. G. Hillier and C.R. Lancaster in *Rhododendrons 1975 With Magnolias and Camellias*, it has larger flowers than *M. stellata* with about 12 tepals. The leaves are larger than in *M. stellata* and growth is arborescent.

'Treve Holman' is believed to be *M. sargentiana* × *M. campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata*, the cross made at Caerhays, and the original tree flowered by Nigel Holman at Chyverton near Truro in April 1973. Mr. Holman has described the tree as the fastest grower among the many magnolias planted at Chyverton. It was obtained from Treseder's nursery in spring 1964, and was 30 feet tall in 1973. Mr. Holman says its flower turned out to be one of the finest he has ever seen, a deep rose pink with red-purple shading; the shape is the elegant cup and saucer typical of *campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata*. Considering its parentage, it may be too tender for most American locations, but this remains to be seen.

Mr. Treseder describes, without cultivar names, three progeny of a cross made at Kew by the late Charles P. Raffill in 1943, which he calls "the Soulcamp hybrids." The more interesting one grows at Lanarth in Cornwall and attained a height of 15 feet (4.5 m) in 25 years, but is a tall shrub rather than a tree, with slender, somewhat pendulous branches. The leaves are of moderate size, 6½ by 3¼ inches (16.5 by 8 cm), and have nine pairs of main veins. The leaves taper abruptly at each end and tend to ripple along the margins. The flowers are goblet-shaped with four narrow papery 'bracts' in the form of false calyces in the manner of *M. × soulangiana* 'Lennei' (which may have been the seed parent).

Dr. John Wilkinson in 1972 found the Lanarth tree had a somatic (2n) chromosome number +95, while another of the same cross, no. 59 at Kew (in 1969), had +106. The Lanarth plant is probably the one from which I collected buds (in company with Neil Treseder) in early September 1973. One graft has withstood -20°F. at Urbana,