

## The Pollen Bank: Off to a Slow Start

It won't be long before pollen (and pollen using) season begins for Magnolias. In some parts of the country a few Magnolias are in flower as early as the first of February.

Now seems to be a good time for a short recap on the progress of the Society's Pollen Bank. In brief, it has been something of a bust so far—and that it doesn't deserve; for hand pollination of Magnolias offers one of the greatest potentials for improving cultivated members of the genus and for producing fine new hybrids or cultivars.

August Kehr, 240 Tranquility Place, Hendersonville, N.C. 28739, who runs the AMS Pollen Bank, reports that in 1980 there were only three deposits. He adds:

"Perhaps the saddest report is about receipt of pollen of *M. dealbata* (the deciduous Mexican magnolia) which was sent in plastic envelopes, and which arrived in totally unviable condition. Apparently the directions for preparing pollen for shipment were not clearly enough stated. Pollen kept even a few hours in a plastic envelope in moist condition is worthless. It must be dry and in a gelatin capsule. Otherwise, it is not worth the postage. Hence, one third of the bank's 1980 deposits was worthless. Therefore, I suggest the instructions printed in the Fall-Winter 1979 *MAGNOLIA* (Vol. XV No. 2) be repeated with strong emphasis on following directions to the letter. Unless the pollen is properly prepared, the Pollen Bank may be issuing valueless withdrawals, which would be very bad for initial trials. Thus the 1980 report of the Pollen Bank is not a happy one, but with a

little bit of luck and some care we can do better in 1981."

For just how to collect, prepare, and ship pollen to the Pollen Bank, and how to store it, we refer members to the original item on the Pollen Bank in Vol. XV No. 2 (page 14), and add that the size 000 or 00 gelatin capsules August Kehr recommends can be obtained from any pharmacist and are quite inexpensive. For the time and trouble involved in collecting and handling the pollen, and the potential it offers to Magnolia breeders, it's well worth an extra trip to the drugstore.

## By-laws Available

A copy of the by-laws of the American Magnolia Society, adopted at the St. Louis meeting in 1979 and corrected at the Seattle meeting in 1980, will be sent to any member of the Society who requests one. The overall structure of the Society as a corporation, how it operates under a board of directors, etc., has been generally described in previous issues, and a summary of Society objectives was given in the most recent issue. The purpose of forming a not-for-profit corporation to replace the former Society structure, which operated mainly out of the President's hat, is to gain certain postal or tax advantages and to make it possible for the Society to accept contributions of money or property to carry out its stated objectives. If you desire a copy of the by-laws, please make your request to Joseph W. Hickman, Registered Corporate Agent, American Magnolia Society Inc., 606 West 6th Street, Benton, Illinois 62812.