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of Watson and Wiesener. It's the plant itself that counts.

In the second place, *M. × watsonii* (or *wieseneri*) apparently is extremely cold hardy. It thrives at North Manchester, Indiana, where it has repeatedly withstood temperatures down to 0° F. and survived occasional lows to -18° F. It also has done well at Barnes Arboretum near Philadelphia where there are similar winter lows. But the abnormally cold winter of 1963 did it in at Brookville, Pennsylvania, in David Leach's garden. Although you are not likely to find this classic hybrid

at your neighborhood garden shop, its cold hardiness appears to make the extra effort needed to obtain it worthwhile.

In the third place, *M. × watsonii* (*wieseneri*) has been cultivated for over a century for good reasons, chief of which is the surpassing beauty of its flower. Even though I haven't seen the actual flower, I have great expectations from having seen pictures of it and from all I've heard and read about it.

For gardening and ornamental purposes, *M. × watsonii* (*wieseneri*) seems an improvement on both its parents, at least in the western hemisphere. The flower, with its prominent rosy-crimson stamens and its 9 to 12 white and cream tepals, excels *M. hypoleuca* in beauty. It is a shrub or small tree and is said to begin flowering sometimes when only a foot or so high, whereas *M. hypoleuca* may take a dozen years or more to come to flower as it goes from seedling to tree size.

The flowers of *M. × watsonii-wieseneri* are twice the size of the comely *M. sieboldii* and the stamens

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more prominent. But the biggest advantage is that the flowers face upright in the manner of *M. hypoleuca* instead of downward or sideways as do flowers of *M. sieboldii* and others in Section Oyama. The fragrance of *M. × watsonii-wieseneri* was described by Hooker as resembling *Calycanthus* and by Millais as approximating ripe pineapples. Whoever is right, or even if our subject's fragrance is somewhere between, one can't go wrong with a smell like that.

My *M. × watsonii-wieseneri* is about 3½ feet tall and is on its own roots. It was a housewarming gift from the Hetzers (Little Lake Nursery) when I moved to this small acreage about 2½ years ago. It has not yet flowered, and thus may not be typical of other specimens. One reason it has not bloomed may be that its top has been chewed out twice by an adventuresome pony that belongs to a neighboring farm, and seems to feel the need to express himself and to do most of his grazing outside his own bailiwick. Unfortunately, I have not yet got all my farm fencing pony-proofed. This "topping" appears to have caused additional sprouts or stems to come from the rootball, and there are now 4 or 5. I dote on it so much, or rather on its promise, that I have given it one of the most conspicuous spots in my yard, though it probably would do better if it had more wind protection. The wind here often tugs mightily at the roofs of the buildings, rattles the windows regularly, sometimes tears limbs off larger trees, and blows garbage cans right out of sight if they aren't weighted or tied down.

From what I have read it appears likely that *M. × watsonii* (or *wieseneri*) is a garden type hybridization that has taken place in Japan and could possibly happen in other countries where the two Japanese parents are

planted together, since both flower at about the same time in late spring or early summer.

Thus, it is on the same order as *M. × thompsoniana* (*M. tripetala* × *M. virginiana*), which was produced by chance in an English garden by its American parents in 1808, though these parents do not seem to have been as promiscuous as the Japanese: the only other known hybridization by these U.S. Magnolias was carried out deliberately several years ago by Joe McDaniel as a kind of test to confirm the parentage everybody had previously presumed. From his hybrids, Joe McDaniel selected one he calls *M. × thompsoniana* 'Urbana,' which differs in a few respects from the 1808 hybrid.

Perhaps I am not the right person to be extolling the beauty and virtues of *M. × watsonii* (or *wieseneri*) since I have not seen the flower and have not yet got to the point of relishing a pony roast. But I see and hear it praised on every hand, and it seems appropriate and even obligatory to suggest that if you live in a climate that's difficult for many Magnolias it might be well to take a good look at this beautiful, exotic, and venerable hybrid. It could be for you.

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