

McDaniel who do so much to better this organization.

It is a little scary and of course quite challenging to sit in the chair once occupied by my heroes. We look forward to a greater and more active society during the coming years and realize that there would be no Magnolia Society at all if it had not been for these exceptional persons.

Wintering Over Plants

By Dwight R. Crocker

As a member of the AMS, I have been interested in all phases of this field, especially in plants hardy enough for this changeable climate, having found out the hard (and expensive) way that some cultivars won't survive here (Springfield, Mo.). Our last two winters and summers have been some of the most extreme on record. I do have 42 cultivars, mostly small.

Since the best selections can generally be obtained in the fall, I buy them then. I have devised an excellent method of protecting them the first winter, as they haven't hardened off for our severe cold when received. Then too, the next spring one has them on hand at the ideal time to set them out permanently. This method of protection is a variation of how our forefathers kept apples, potatoes, and so on.

I have a huge mound of dirt, hollowed out in the center, into which I set them, working dirt down among the roots and working it in, just as if they were being planted. Since they are elevated, there is no drainage problem. They are now set out "underground" above ground.

I water them well too. Next I wrap screen wire around the plants to protect them from mice, rabbits, and other rodents. A few years ago one such taught me this lesson the hard way by chewing on the tops and labels, leaving unlabeled plants the next spring. Then I pack excelsior around this to fill up the hole to the top. Straw might work, but it absorbs moisture

and packs so it might exclude the air.

After this, I cover all completely with plywood sheeting and plastic sheets to protect the plants from the weather. When snow and the coldest winds blows, there are no worries.

The Seed Counter

The 1983-84 Seed Counter did not set any records. The high demand for the limited amount of seed available required many substitutions and issuance of some credit slips.

The 1984-85 Seed Counter looks like another excellent year which should result in near record sales. Especially encouraging is the amount of seed being received from different countries and the amount of seed from hand pollinated crosses. Truly we are becoming an international society.

I would like to encourage all our members to contribute seed in the fall of 1985. You might even want to try some hand pollinated crosses for the Counter in 1985. (Another article in this issue explains how easily it can be done).

The Counter again would like to thank Bill Seidl who contributed many hours of his time helping with the seed.

Seed should be cleaned by soaking it in water until the pulpy outer covering is easily removed. Send the moist seed in plastic bags immediately after cleaning, and it will be stored in a moist, cool condition to await shipment to members in spring. Don't use fungicides or fillers, which interfere with the handling and counting.

The Seed Counter is one of this Society's most important services in the worldwide promotion of more extensive culture of magnolias, and has enabled many members to obtain magnolias difficult to find at a modest cost. It is also a substantial source of revenue, supported entirely by contributions, that helps run the Society. Send your seed contributions to Dennis Ledvina, AMS Seed Counter, 2583 Hazelwood Lane, Green Bay, WI 54304.



Magnolia kobus borealis can reach timber size, and some specimens when uncrowded by competing plants will maintain a perfectly symmetrical and pyramidal form. It is one of the first trees to produce its spring spectacle and, unlike some of the other Asian magnolias, scatters its seedlings lavishly. These two specimens, about 40 years old, are on the grounds of a garden apartment development in Bethesda, Md.

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