

open during the day and closed at night.

If you do not have a cold frame, an alternative is to pick a sheltered spot in the shade, such as on the north side of the house or of a bank of evergreens. Lay the plants on their sides there, cover with a lightweight, dry mulch such as straw, excelsior, oak leaves, or conifer boughs, and then cover all with a sheet of clear or white plastic. As with the cold frame, this should also be checked early in the spring and aired on warm days.

In this discussion, I have outlined practices which have worked for me. Those growing magnolias in areas far removed from Ohio, with different climatic conditions and raw materials to work with, will have to modify these recommendations in the light of their

experience. Of course, the most successful gardener is the one who understands what he does, for he can adapt. If you haven't grown seedlings before, try it. There are many delights in growing magnolias from seed. Apart from the satisfaction of saving money, there is the almost parental pride in knowing every detail in the life of "your seedlings" as well as the craftsman's contentment in having "grown them myself". ■

### Literature Cited

Savage, P. J., 1973. An amateur's method for growing magnolias from seed. *Newsletter of The American Magnolia Society* 9(4): 7-15.

Seitner, P. G., 1980. One way to start seedlings. *MAGNOLIA* 16(1): 17-19.

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### Notes from the Seed Counter

The 1989 Seed Counter raised over \$1500 for the Society. About 1300 packs were sent to 59 U.S. and 29 foreign members. No orders went unfilled, and there were fewer substitutions than in prior years. Expenses, as a function of gross receipts, only run about 10%.

A goal of the Seed Committee is to become the premier horticultural society for distribution of herbaceous, non-magnolia seed. Seed of rare and unusual plants are in demand world-wide. Seed of domestic (U.S.) trees and shrubs is in demand when it is not in the common foreign trade.

Seed counter revenue can be increased substantially if additional contributors surface. A new packaging technique for 1990 will greatly increase the amount of seed which can be sent out and permit better matching of supply and demand. Plastic Zip-loc bags, 2" x 3" will be used at a cost of 3¢ each. The seed list will be mailed by late March so that all seed can be

mailed by the first part of May.

Several techniques can be used by contributors to determine seed viability in the Fall. Weevil infestation in magnolias is the primary culprit. Put a sample of seed, uncleaned, in a glass of water for 2-3 weeks. If weevils are present, the larvae will emerge and crawl around. They are white, with dark heads, and ugly. "Floaters" of cleaned or uncleaned seed will also identify bad seed. Finally, you can cut a seed in half in the Fall or Spring to see if it is viable.

Additional information has been obtained concerning the storage of seed which will improve the viability of the non-magnolia seed that is distributed. Seed contained in fruit, such as *Magnolia* or *Sophora* seed, will be stored moist. Other seed, except for large seed such as acorns, will be stored dry.

Non-magnolia seed of a given variety should not be submitted every year, in general, since it is rare that there are more than 20 requests.

-Ray Tessmer, Chairman