

The growth of Magnolias in the British Isles

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The Tree Register of the British Isles contains many measurements of magnolias growing throughout the country, and I have abstracted a few of the largest and tallest to give some idea of the varieties that have grown to fair sized trees.

As you will see from the accompanying list, many of the "champion" specimens grow in gardens in Cornwall and Ireland. However, as you will also see, good trees have been found as far north as Argyll and Northumberland.

All measurements given are Height (in meters) and Diameter (in centimeters).

M. acuminata L.

	21.5 x 80	(1984) Canterbury Cathedral, Kent
	22 x 56	(1986) Hever Castle, Kent
	27 x 69	(1985) Margam Park, W. Glamorgan
	18 x 54	(1986) Belsay Castle, Northumberland
	16.5 x 70	(1983) Lingholm, Cumbria
planted 1896	17 x 36	(1987) Bromham Hospital, Bedford

M. acuminata var. *cordata* (Michx) Sarg.

	15 x 57	(1984) Duffryn Gardens, W. Glamorgan
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M. campbellii Hook f & Thoms.

	27 x 69	(1988) Leonardslee, Sussex
	23 x 93	(1987) Wakehurst Place, Sussex
planted 1915	15 x 83	(1987) Fota, County Cork, Ireland
planted 1880	11.5 x 115	(1985) Bosahan, Cornwall (at 1m)
	22 x 86	(1984) Bulkeley Mill, Gwynedd, Wales

M. campbellii var. *alba*

planted 1925	24 x 50	(1987) Borde Hill, Sussex
	24 x 43	(1982) Clyne Castle, Glamorgan, Wales
	15.5 x 37	(1987) Caerhays Castle, Cornwall

M. 'Charles Raffill'

c1948	17 x 48	(1978) Antony House, Cornwall
	16 x 61	(1979) Trengwainton, Cornwall

M. campbellii 'Betty Jessel'

	12 x 28	(1984) Ladham House, Kent
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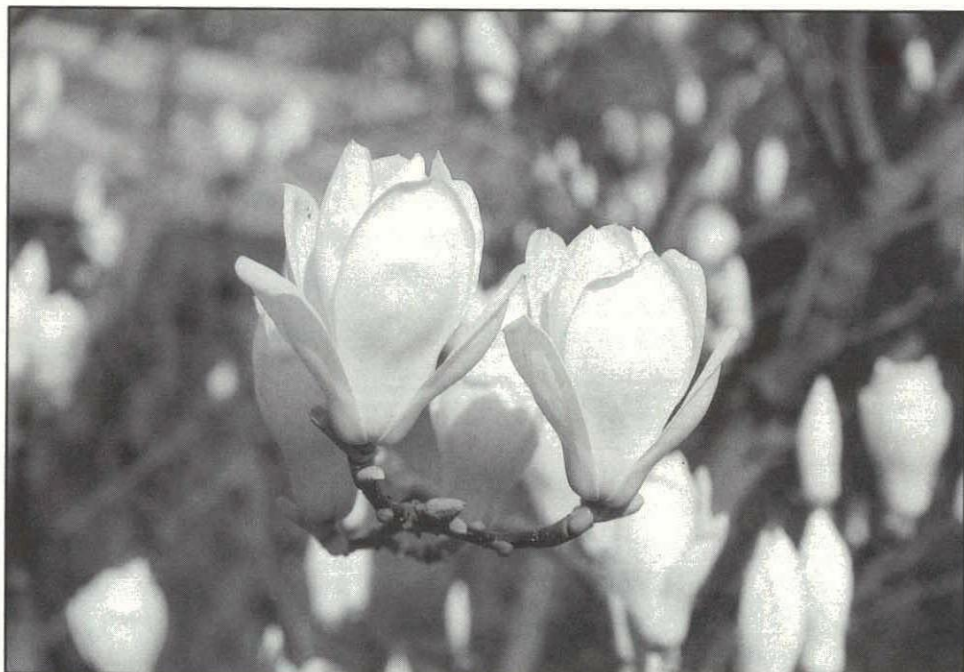
M. 'Kew's Surprise'

planted 1951	16 x 50	(1984) Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
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M. campbellii subsp. *mollicomata*

	19 x 42	(1981) Bodnant, Gwynedd, Wales
	17 x 99	(1987) Trewithen, Cornwall

<i>M. cylindrica</i>	9	x	12	(1987)	Trewithen, Cornwall
<i>M. dealbata</i>					
planted 1987	2	x	-	(1989)	Cambridge University BG
<i>M. dawsoniana</i> Rehd & Wils.					
	16	x	58	(1987)	Birr Castle, County Offaly, Ireland
	16	x	58	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
	18	x	45+	(1979)	Trewithen, Cornwall
planted 1944	14	x	43	(1977)	Chyverton, Cornwall
<i>M. delavayi</i> Franch.					
	18	x	53+	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
	10.5	x	42	(1984)	Saltram, Devon
	11	x	44	(1989)	Tregothnan, Cornwall
	13	x	53	(1987)	Borde Hill, Sussex
<i>M. denudata</i> Desrouss.					
supine	x	57		(1988)	Lower Coombe Royal, Devon
	11.5	x	44+	(1982)	Beauport Park, Sussex
<i>M. fraseri</i> Walt.					
	24	x	52	(1984)	Leonardslee, Sussex [blown Oct. 17, 87]
	16.5	x	40	(1970)	Killerton, Devon
<i>M. grandiflora</i> L.					
	10	x	72	(1983)	Nonesuch Park, Surrey
planted 1812	7	x	61+	(1985)	Hurn Court, Hants.
	10	x	52	(1987)	Ashbourne House, County Cork, Ireland
	12	x	40	(1989)	Sheffield Park, Sussex (at .5m)
<i>M. grandiflora</i> 'Goliath'					
planted 1950	7	x	23	(1984)	Vine House, Avon
<i>M. hypoleuca</i> Sieb & Zucc.					
	17	x	37	(1984)	Leonardslee, Sussex
planted 1925	26	x	36	(1988)	Westonbirt, Glos.
	17	x	57	(1986)	Arduaine, Argyll, Scotland (at .3m)
	16	x	75	(1989)	Borde Hill, Sussex
<i>M. 'Kewensis'</i>					
	15	x	38	(1988)	Winkworth Arb., Surrey
	11	x	38	(1981)	Kew RBG, Surrey (original)
<i>M. kobus</i> var. <i>borealis</i> Sarg.					
	10.5	x	50	(1981)	Borde Hill, Sussex
	15	x	62	(1978)	Kew RBG, Surrey
<i>M. kobus</i> D.C.					
	7	x	31	(1989)	Lindridge Park, Devon
planted 1952	14	x	28	(1984)	Chelsea Physic Gardens
planted 1969	12	x	23	(1988)	Oldfield, Verwood, Dorset
<i>M. macrophylla</i> Michx.					
	18	x	30	(1983)	Killerton, Devon
	10.5	x	28	(1986)	Bodnant, Gwynedd, Wales
planted 1941	16	x	15	(1987)	Fota, County Cork, Ireland
<i>M. nitida</i> W.W. Sm.					
	9	x	37	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
	5	x	8	(1977)	Chyverton, Cornwall



Magnolia denudata. A pure white form at Oldfield, Verwood, Dorset, England.

M. officinalis Rehd & Wils.

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|--|----|---|----|--------|-------------------------------------|
| | 16 | x | 43 | (1974) | Borde Hill, Sussex |
| | 17 | x | 42 | (1985) | Birr Castle, County Offaly, Ireland |

M. rostrata W.W. Sm.

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|--------------|----|---|----|--------|---------------------------|
| planted 1935 | 19 | x | 35 | (1977) | Sidbury Manor, Devon |
| | 12 | x | 31 | (1984) | Caerhays Castle, Cornwall |

M. salicifolia (Sieb & Zucc) Maxim.

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|--------------|----|---|----|--------|------------------------------|
| | 18 | x | 43 | (1984) | Caerhays Castle, Cornwall |
| | 16 | x | 32 | (1988) | Forde Abbey, Dorset |
| planted 1950 | 13 | x | 32 | (1987) | Plas Newydd, Anglesey, Wales |

M. sargentiana Rehd & Wils.

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|--|------|---|----|--------|---------------------------|
| | 18.5 | x | 47 | (1975) | Caerhays Castle, Cornwall |
| | 16 | x | 51 | (1987) | Trewithen, Cornwall |

M. sargentiana var. *robusta* Rehd & Wils.

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|--------------|----|---|----|--------|---------------------------|
| | 18 | x | 60 | (1984) | Caerhays Castle, Cornwall |
| planted 1942 | 16 | x | 52 | (1979) | Trewidden, Cornwall |
| | 16 | x | 40 | (1988) | Forde Abbey, Dorset |

M. sieboldii K. Koch

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|--------------|---|---|-----|--------|-------------------------|
| planted 1916 | 6 | x | 18+ | (1989) | Bodnant, Gwynedd, Wales |
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M. x soulangiana

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|--------------|----|---|----|--------|-----------------|
| | 14 | x | 39 | (1986) | Riverhill, Kent |
| planted 1873 | 6 | x | 21 | (1987) | Kew RBG, Surrey |

M. x soulangiana 'Lennei'

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|--|---|---|----|--------|------------------------|
| | 4 | x | 14 | (1984) | Angelsea Abbey, Cambs. |
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<i>M. x soulangiana</i> 'Brozzonii'	6	x	29	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
	8	x	24	(1984)	Borde Hill, Sussex
<i>M. sprengeri</i> var. <i>diva</i> (Stapf) Johnstone					
planted 1912	-	x	74	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
planted 1940	20	x	50	(1987)	Borde Hill, Sussex
	18	x	75	(1985)	Trewithen, Cornwall
<i>M. sprengeri</i> var. <i>elongata</i> (Rehd & Wils) Johnstone					
	16	x	27	(1984)	Bodnant, Gwynedd, Wales
	13	x	25	(1985)	Birr Castle, County Offaly, Ireland
	12	x	25	(1983)	Wisley RHSG, Surrey
<i>M. thompsoniana</i> (Loud) C de Vos					
	4	x	14	(1987)	Kew RBG, Surrey
	7.5	x	11	(1985)	Nymans, Sussex
	5.5	x	10	(1984)	Sheffield Park, Sussex
<i>M.</i> 'Treve Holman'					
	2	x	-	(1987)	Tilgates, Bletchingly, Surrey
planted 1965	2	x	5	(1980)	Sandling Park, Kent
<i>M. tripetala</i>					
	18	x	39	(1981)	Chelwood Vachery, Sussex
	8	x	22+	(1986)	Penrhyn Castle, Gwynedd, Wales
<i>M. x veitchii</i> Bean					
	29	x	67	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
	25	x	96	(1984)	Caerhays Castle, Cornwall
	27	x	56	(1988)	Westonbirt. Glos.
	20	x	82	(1986)	Bodnant, Gwynedd, Wales
<i>M. x veitchii</i> Bean cont...					
	23	x	96	(1986)	Bodnant, Gwynedd, Wales
<i>M. x veitchii</i> 'Alba'					
	14	x	47	(1987)	Kew RBG, Surrey
<i>M. x veitchii</i> 'Isca'					
planted 1969	8	x	27	(1988)	Oldfield, Verwood, Dorset
<i>M. x veitchii</i> 'Peter Veitch'					
	16	x	27+	(1988)	Hillier Arb., Hants.
<i>M. x veitchii</i> 'Rosea'					
	23	x	48+	(1986)	Hillier Arb., Hants.
<i>M. virginiana</i> L.					
	14	x	24+	(1984)	Tilgate Park, Sussex
	12	x	38	(1982)	Knaphill Nursery, Surrey
<i>M. wilsonii</i> (Fin & Gagnep) Rehd.					
	9	x	23	(1972)	East Berholt Place, Suffolk
	5	x	24	(1988)	Minterne House, Dorset
<i>M. x wieseneri</i>					
	7.5	x	23	(1981)	Ladham House, Kent
planted 1943	10	x	13	(1984)	Fota, County Cork, Ireland

Although of prehistoric design to attract beetles, Magnolias are nevertheless well adapted to the modern world, adding their special beauty to the gardens of the British Isles. ■