

Introducing *Magnolia* x *wieseneri* 'Aashild Kalleberg'

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A seedling of *Magnolia Hypoleuca* first flowered on June 1, 1995. The seed germinated in 1988, and it was delivered by the Botanical Garden of Göteborg, Sweden. The intendant told me that only *M. hypoleuca* and *M. sieboldii* were growing in the area.

I have studied the seedling for years because it showed characteristics unlike *M. hypoleuca*. The leaves' petioles were green, not red. When the seedling first flowered this summer I studied the plant again as *M. hypoleuca* should need more than 7 years before it flowered the first time. It needs 12-15 years or more.

The flowers, seven, were not like the flowers of *M. hypoleuca*. They looked more like the flowers of *M. sieboldii*, but they were twice that size. The 12 tepals were pure white and fairly thick. The stamens are dark red and red, and lacked the yellow color which is typical for *M. hypoleuca*. The flowers resembled the flower of *M. x wieseneri*. The scent of the flowers was weaker than the scent of common *M. sieboldii*. *M. x wieseneri* usually has a strong, penetrating scent.

M. x wieseneri has leaves intermediate between *M. hypoleuca* and *M. sieboldii*. My new crossing has leaves like *M. hypoleuca* (45cm x 20cm). The plant is a good grower and transplants well. It is sterile and must be propagated vegetatively by rooted cuttings or by layering. Grafted plants of *M. x wieseneri* do not often grow well.

The plant is registered as I find it very interesting. The mother plant is now 10 feet tall with a symmetrical branch pattern and one stem. The plant is very hardy and escapes late spring frost as the first leaves come in late May. It seems to be floriferous. It is named after my wife.

Several crossings between *M. hypoleuca* and *M. sieboldii* are recorded. I hope that a crossing between *M. hypoleuca* and *M. sieboldii* 'Harold Epstein' could give us a multitepalled *M. x wieseneri*. *M. sieboldii* 'Harold Epstein' is the best double form. A double flowered *M. hypoleuca* has never been recorded. ❁



Magnolia x wieseneri 'Aashild Kalleberg'