

Fraser magnolia

Magnolia fraseri Walter



The Fraser magnolia is a large-leaved small tree, with large white flowers. It is native to the southeastern United States, and tolerates more exposure than its close relative, the bigleaf magnolia, *Magnolia macrophylla*. The leaves are about half the length of *macrophylla*. The flowers are followed by huge cone-like seed pods, with pink seeds. This tree prefers moderate temperatures and rich soils that do not dry out. It is not as popular as its close relatives, because the flowers tend to be high in the tree and partially hidden by the

leaves. This is the second-tallest growing magnolia, after the southern magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*. Hardy to southern zone 5.

Propagation

Fraser magnolia seed is relatively easy to grow, given a rich, moist soil. No cold stratification is required. It can either be direct-sowed outdoors or sown indoors. Before planting, make sure to strip off all the outer pulp; it's recommended that you then wash the seed in a mild dish-soap bath before planting. Any pulp remaining on the seed will inhibit germination. Shipping in the pulp protects the seed; any mold on the pulp is not harmful and will wash away. Once planted, do not allow seeds or seedlings to dry out. Protect from extreme cold temperatures. However, germination may be very slow. Seed planted this fall may not sprout until the end of next summer, so be patient. As with all magnolias, percentage of viability may be relatively low.

Conservation Seed
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