



LITTLE GEM SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'

The words small, dwarf, semi-dwarf and slow growing have been used to describe 'Little Gem'. The parent tree was measured at 40' tall in 1997. I have seen 30-gallon Little Gem trees 7' tall when planted in the landscape that reached a height of 22' in seven years. We could expect the Little Gem to have the potential to reach 40'-50' height by 15' spread within 20 years.

The hallmark quality for which Little Gem is recognized is its prolific flowering that extends for a time that far exceeds all other Magnolia cultivars, in fact the Little Gem will grow during winter months in southern regions.. This outstanding quality, combined with impressive foliage that is dark glossy green contrasted with bronze-brown pubescence makes Little Gem an irresistible choice for many different landscape applications.

Little Gem is the best choice for espalier application and is also great for tall screening. When narrow space requirements are needed, the narrowly columned form of Little Gem deserves consideration. It is truly a beautiful tree with outstanding versatility for multiple landscape applications.

Little Gem will steadfastly continue to reward us with its magnificence if we are considerate of all the energy it needs to produce prolific flowering for an extended time period. All it asks is to be rewarded with adequate moisture and plant food that will allow it to perform its splendor.



Little Gem Magnolia



Little Gem Magnolia flowers



Little Gem Magnolia Espalier



Little Gem Magnolia foliage

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30g Little Gem Magnolia

Native Origin: North America

Development:

Discovered by Warren Steed
Steed's Nursery, Candor, North Carolina

Recognition: 2000 Georgia Gold Medal Winner;
2003 Florida Plant of the Year

Description:

Hardy Range: 7A to 10
Mature Height: 40' to 60' / 12.2m to 18.3m
Mature Spread: 10' to 15' / 3.5m to 4.6m
Growth Rate: 20 to maturity
Form: Upright or erect
Persistence: Evergreen

Ornamental Characteristics:

The flowers are small, abundant, white, fragrant and showy and last spring through fall. Little Gem has an extended bloom time (10 months), longer than any other magnolia. Foliage is black-green with bronze-brown undersides and no change in fall. The fruit is brown and red, dry, elongated, attractive, and edible by birds, and attracts animals.

Environment:

Soil: well-drained; loamy, sandy or clay
Salt: Medium
Exposure: Partial sun to full sun



full sun



partial shade



medium
salt tolerance



urban



canopy



evergreen



flowering

