

Sweetbay Magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

Height: 15-30' | Spread: 15-25' | Light: ☀-☀ | Moisture: moist-wet

Sweetbay magnolia makes an excellent tree for planting next to buildings, in narrow alleys or corridors, or in other urban areas with limited space for horizontal crown expansion. It usually maintains a good, straight central leader, although occasionally the trunk branches low to the ground forming a round multi-stemmed, spreading tree. This tree has extremely high aesthetic and wildlife values. In May, its large, white showy blossoms produce a sweet aroma. Flowers are followed by dark red aggregate fruits exposing bright red seeds that are popular with songbirds. Sweetbays flourish in moist, acid soil such as the swamps in the eastern U.S. and along stream banks.



Photos clockwise from top left; John Ruter – University of Georgia via bugwood.org, Ansel Oommen via bugwood.org, T. Davis Sydnor – The Ohio State University via bugwood.org, Chris Evans – University of Illinois via bugwood.org