

BIGLEAF MAGNOLIA

Magnolia macrophylla Michx.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Large- leaf magnolia, Great-leaved cucumber tree, Great-leaved magnolia, Large-leaved umbrella-tree, Cucumber-tree, Cowcumber tree.

FORM: 30-50 feet high, straight trunk 18-20 inches in diameter, stout, wide spreading branches forming a broad symmetrical round-topped head.

BARK: Generally less than 1/4 inch thick, smooth, light gray, divided on the surface into minute scales.

TWIGS: At first hoary-tomentose, light green, pubescent, marked with large irregular leaf scars the first winter, reddish-brown their second season, later gray.

LEAVES: Alternate, simple, obovate or oblong, acute or often abruptly narrowed and acute or rounded at apex, narrowed and cordate at base, bright green and glabrous above, lower side silvery-gray and pubescent, 20-30 inches long, 8-10 inches wide.

FLOWERS: On stout hoary-tomentose pedicels 1-1 1/2 inch long, fragrant, 10-12 inches across, perfect, sepals much narrower than the 6 creamy-white petals with a rose-colored blotch at base.

FRUIT: Bright rose color, ovoid to nearly globose, pubescent, 2 1/2-3 inches long; seeds obovoid, compressed, 2/3 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal bud bluntly pointed, with a thick coat of snowy-white tomentum, 1 3/4-2 inches long, lateral, brownish, pubescent, 1/8-1/4 inch long.

WOOD: Hard, close-grained, light, not strong, light brown, thick light yellow sapwood of about 40 layers of annual growth.

USES: Occasionally planted as an ornamental.

HABITAT: Sheltered valleys in deep rich soil.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: The flowers and leaves are larger and more conspicuous than those of any other tree in the North American forests.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Statewide, most common on west side of state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruit | 6. Vertical section of a seed |
| 2. Vertical section of the gynoecium | 7. Cross section of a seed |
| 3. A stigma | 8. An embryo |
| 4. A seed, the base of the pulpy portion of the testa removed, showing the stony interior portion | 9. A winter bud, the outer scale expanded |
| 5. A seed, the fleshy part of the removed | 10. Cross section of a winter bud |



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