trees which can be successfully used for the decoration of New England gardens.

Late Magnolias. All the North American species of Magnolias are hardy and can be easily grown in Massachusetts with the exception of *Magnolia pyramidata*, a rare and local shrub or small tree of southern Georgia, western Florida and southeastern Alabama, and the evergreen *M. grandiflora*. The first of the hardy Magnolias, *M. Fraseri*, opened its large pale yellow flowers as the leaves were unfolding. This was followed by *M. acuminata* and *M. cordata* which also flower as the leaves open; the Umbrella Tree, *M. tripetala*, was in flower early in June. The last of these trees to flower are *Magnolia virginiana*, better known as *M. glauca*, and *M. macrophylla*.

Magnolia virginiana. In all North America there is not a more satisfactory shrub or small tree to plant in a garden or one that will give a larger return in beauty and fragrance. The leaves are dark green and very lustrous on the upper surface and silvery white on the lower surface. The flowers, which are smaller than those of the other American Magnolias, and continue to open here from the middle of June until August, are cup-shaped, creamy white and emit a pungent fragrance which in the evening fills the air for a long distance from the plant. At the north *M. virginiana*, which has bright green glabrous branchlets, rarely grows thirty feet in height but in the Gulf States the variety *australis* is a large tree occasionally nearly a hundred feet high with branchlets thickly covered with matted white hairs and leaves which remain bright and green during the winter and fall in spring. In spite of its beauty and value as a garden plant *Magnolia virginiana* appears to be little known or appreciated by American gardeners of the present generation due perhaps to the fact that it is difficult to find it at least in any quantity in American nurseries. A hybrid of this tree and the Umbrella Tree (*M. tripetala*), known as *M. major* or *Thompsoniana*, has the general appearance of *M. virginiana* but the leaves are larger and the flowers are larger and whiter but equally fragrant.

Magnolia macrophylla is the last of the Magnolias to flower in the Arboretum. A native of the southern States it is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts, where it has sometimes grown to a height of from twenty to thirty feet and formed a wide round-topped head of branches spreading at nearly right angles to the trunk. This Magnolia is distinguished by the fact that it has the largest leaves and the largest flowers of any tree growing in any part of the world beyond the tropics. The leaves are silvery white on the lower surface and are from twenty to thirty inches in length and eight or nine inches in width. The expanded flowers are often a foot in diameter. Although perfectly hardy here *Magnolia macrophylla* is best planted in a position sheltered from the wind which often badly tears the large and delicate leaves.

Robinia Hartwigii, one of the shrubby Locusts from the high Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina is now in flower in the collection of these plants on the right hand side of the Meadow Road. It is a tall vigorous shrub with leaves composed usually of nineteen short-

1923. "Magnolia virginiana." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 9(12), 47-47. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321384>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/239239>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321384>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321384>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.