

SWEET THING MAGNOLIA

by Dr. Ellen Vincent



Note: Originally discovered by George L. Dodson III, in a group of *Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis* seedlings planted at Sleepy Hollow Nursery, McMinnville, Tenn. in 1990.¹⁹

Features: Olive green evergreen foliage with slender leaves. Tolerates extreme variations in temperature and moisture. Flowers lightly the first few years; increasing with years.¹⁹

Siting: Container; hedge; foundation planting.¹⁹

Care: Plant so root flare is visible at soil surface¹⁴. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months and then weekly until established. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk.¹⁴

Pests: Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met.¹⁹

This plant species or cultivar does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on 4/3/2014:

- √ USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>
- √ SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>

Sources: 1: Image source: <http://pics.davesgarden.com/pics/2006/12/28/otis/2fd942.jpg>
 2: Image source: http://www.pleasantrunnursery.com/_ccLib/image/plants/DETA-333.jpg

Latin name: <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> var. <i>australis</i> 'Sweet Thing' ¹⁹	Texture: Medium ¹⁸
Common name: Sweet Thing magnolia ¹⁹	Growth rate: Slow to medium, 6" per year ¹⁹
Flowers: White, citrus scented, late summer (August to October); 4-5" across; flowers last approx. one week ¹⁹	Light: Sun, part-shade ⁸
Fruit or cones: Showy dark-red, 2' long, bright red seeds visible in late summer ¹⁹	Moisture: Wet tolerant and dry tolerant ¹⁹
Height & Width: 8'h x 6'w in 14 years ¹⁹	Soil*: Acid; tolerates moist ⁸
Type: Evergreen ¹⁹	Zones: 5-9 ⁸
Habit: Compact, dense habit and slow growth; multi-stemmed ¹⁹	Origin: Species is native to southern US including SC ¹⁷
Wetland indicator category**: Species is Facultative wetland (FACW); hydrophyte that occurs in wetlands and non-wetlands ¹⁷ <i>SC regions include (1) Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains & (2) Eastern Mountain Piedmont</i>	Ecosystem benefits: Attracts birds. Nectar attracts moths and beetles. Larval host and/or nectar source for Sweetbay silkworm (<i>Callosamia securifera</i>) ¹⁰