

Magnolia virginiana L.

Common Name	Sweetbay Magnolia, Swampbay, Swamp Magnolia
Botanical Name	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>
Family	Magnoliaceae
Form	Tree
Growth Habit	Grows to a height of 20'-60' with a trunk diameter of 1 ½'. In the Southern United States, its growth form consists of a single, upright stem with even branching as a juvenile, becoming more irregular with maturity.
Bark	A light gray bark that is smooth and thin.
Leaves	Shiny, green, elliptically shaped leaves that are silvery with fine hairs underneath. They appear alternately on stems and are 3"-6" long and 1 ¼"-2 ½" wide with smooth edges.
Flowers	The sweetly scented flowers are creamy white with up to 12 petals. Overall, they are about 2"-3" wide and appear in late spring to early summer.
Fruit	The reddish, cone-shaped fruits are 1 ½"-2" long. They consist of many different lobes, each containing two bright red seeds, and appear in the early autumn.
Soil conditions	Sweetbay Magnolias thrive in rich, acidic soils that are consistently moist.
Water	Must be watered during dry spells.
Light Requirement	Sun or light shade.
Native Growth Zone	8-10
Propagation	Seed, cuttings
Habitat	Found almost to the Southern tip of the Florida peninsula in coastal swamps, riparian corridors, and wetlands.
Remarks	In its northern habitat, the Sweetbay Magnolia sheds its leaves in the winter but in its southern range the tree is an evergreen. The distinctive, silvery appearance of the underside of its leaves provides a striking visual contrast when a breeze blows. It is best to plant this individual during cooler months when growth is at a minimum and it must be pruned regularly to maintain a symmetrical growth form.
Works Consulted	A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants, Florida Landscape Plants, Florida Gardener's Guide, Native Florida Plants, The Trees of Florida, National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees