

## ***Magnolia kobus* 'Wada's Memory': 'Wada's Memory' Kobus Magnolia<sup>1</sup>**

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Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### **Introduction**

A striking tree in summer or winter. The cultivar 'Wada's Memory' has black-green leaves, large, six-inch, fragrant white blooms which appear before the leaves, and an upright or columnar growth habit (at least in youth). Dropping its large, six-inch leaves in fall with a yellow display of color, 'Wada's Memory' forms an attractive dark green winter specimen. Young trees flower poorly. The pink fruits which develop split open to reveal bright red seeds, which sway from slender threads before dropping to the ground.

### **General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Magnolia kobus*

**Pronunciation:** mag-NO-lee-uh KOE-bus

**Common name(s):** 'Wada's Memory' Kobus Magnolia, 'Wada's Memory' Northern Japanese Magnolia

**Family:** *Magnoliaceae*



**Figure 1.** Young *Magnolia kobus* 'Wada's Memory': 'Wada's Memory' Kobus Magnolia

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5A through 8A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

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1. This document is ENH-539, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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**Uses:** specimen; street without sidewalk; screen; container or planter; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; sidewalk cutout (tree pit)

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

**Leaf margin:** entire, undulate

**Leaf shape:** obovate, elliptic (oval)

**Leaf venation:** brachidodrome, pinnate

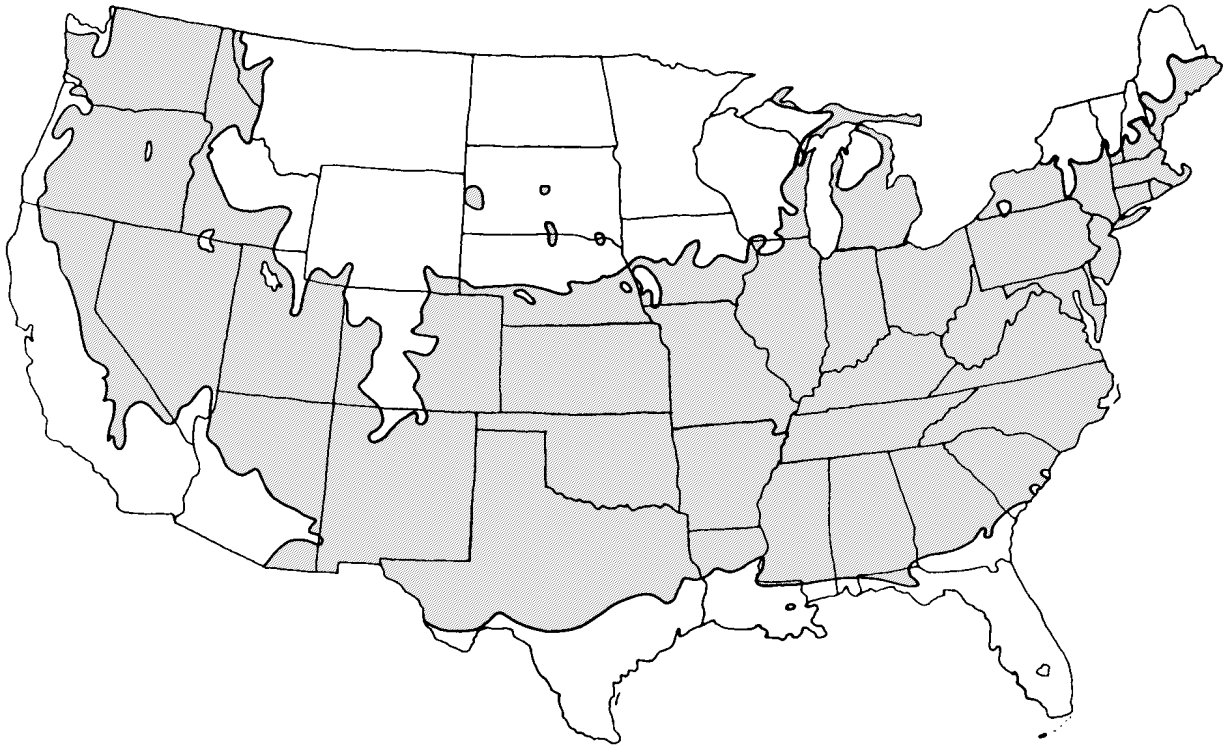


Figure 2. Range

### Description

**Height:** 25 to 30 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 35 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** upright/erect, oval, pyramidal

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** white/cream/gray, pink

**Flower characteristics:** very showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** elongated, irregular

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** pink, red

**Fruit characteristics:** attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** little required

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green, brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium, thick

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

### Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun or partial shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** unknown

### Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** yes

**Outstanding tree:** yes

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** free of serious pests and diseases

### Use and Management

Kobus Magnolia should be grown in full sun or partial shade on any well-drained soil. Probably not for poorly-drained areas but supposedly tolerant of soil with an alkaline pH. It appears to grow well in clay soil. It will be available at selected nurseries.

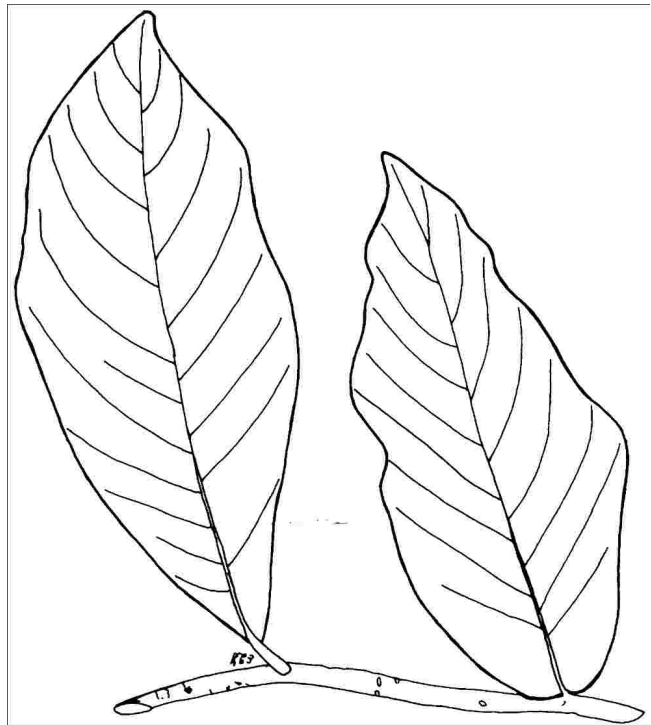


Figure 3. Foliage

Propagation is easily done by cuttings.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern but occasionally bothered by scale as are other Magnolias.