Young ‘Elizabeth’ magnolia are distinctly upright, becoming more oval with age (Fig. 1). Blooms open in late winter in the southern part of its range to early spring in the northern part of its range before the leaves emerge. Flowers are large and yellow, creating a spectacular flower display. Even young trees can develop a beautiful flower display. However, a late frost can often ruin the flowers in all areas where it is grown.

Introduction

General Information

Scientific name: Magnolia x ‘Elizabeth’
Pronunciation: mag-NO-lee-uh
Common name(s): ‘Elizabeth’ magnolia
Family: Magnoliaceae
Plant type: tree
USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 8 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 7: year round
Planting month for zone 8: year round
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: near a deck or patio
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Figure 1. ‘Elizabeth’ magnolia

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
**Description**

- **Height:** 20 to 35 feet
- **Spread:** 18 to 25 feet
- **Plant habit:** pyramidal; round
- **Plant density:** open
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** coarse

**Foliage**

- **Leaf arrangement:** alternate
- **Leaf type:** simple
- **Leaf margin:** undulate
- **Leaf shape:** obovate
- **Leaf venation:** pinnate
- **Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- **Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches
- **Leaf color:** green
- **Fall color:** yellow
- **Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

- **Flower color:** yellow
- **Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; pleasant fragrance

**Fruit**

- **Fruit shape:** unknown
- **Fruit length:** unknown
- **Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- **Fruit color:** red
- **Fruit characteristic:** rarely fruits; attracts birds

**Trunk and Branches**

- **Trunk/bark/branches:** no thorns; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- **Current year stem/twig color:** brown
- **Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**

- **Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- **Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; acidic
- **Drought tolerance:** moderate
- **Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- **Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

- **Roots:** usually not a problem
- **Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers
- **Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
- **Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive
- **Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**

The tree is best used as a specimen in a sunny spot where it can develop a symmetrical crown. It develops an open canopy but flowers fine in a partially shaded spot. It can be pruned up if planted close to a walk or patio to allow for pedestrian clearance but probably looks its best when branches are left to droop to the ground. The light gray bark shows off nicely, particularly during the winter when the tree is bare.

Transplant balled and burlapped plants in the spring, just before growth begins, or containerized plants. Pruning wounds may not close well, so train plants early in their lives to develop the desired form to avoid large pruning wounds.

**Pests and Diseases**

It is generally pest free, but scales of various types may infest twigs and foliage.

Magnolia may be subject to leaf spots.

Canker diseases will kill entire branches.