

Magnolias of Borde Hill and other Gardens of the Sussex High Weald Leonardslee, High Beeches, Nymans, Wakehurst Place. Jim Gardiner VMH



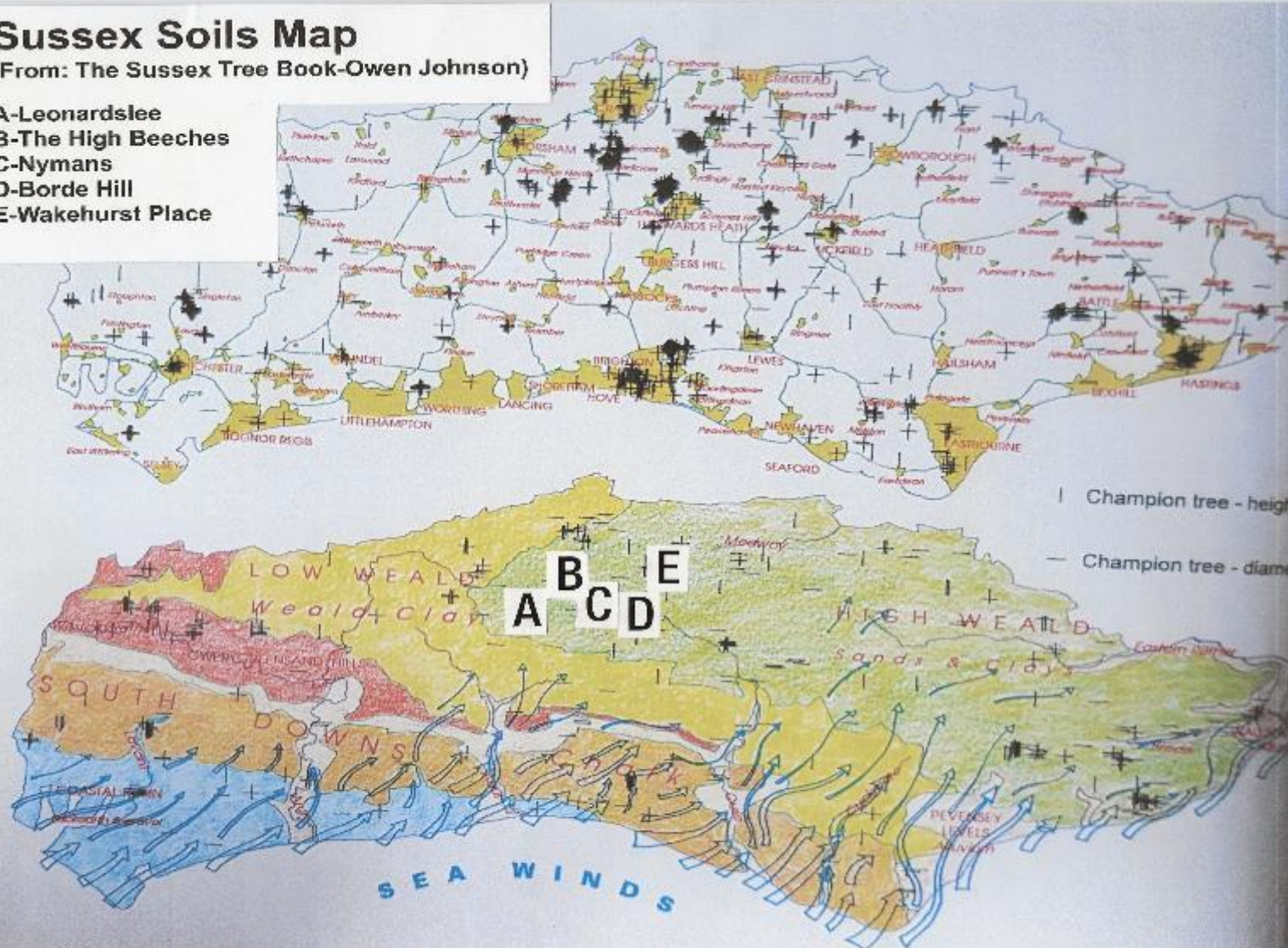
The Sussex High Weald-Garden Locations

A:Leonardslee. B:The High Beeches, C:Nymans,
D:Borde Hill, E:Wakehurst Place

Sussex Soils Map

(From: The Sussex Tree Book-Owen Johnson)

- A-Leonardslee
- B-The High Beeches
- C-Nymans
- D-Borde Hill
- E-Wakehurst Place



Tree Register Of The British Isles

Britain and Ireland Champions(by height / girth),Sussex County Champion Magnolias

<i>Magnolia acuminata</i> Wakehurst Place	<i>Magnolia`Anne Rosse`</i> Nymans
<i>Magnolia biondii</i> Wakehurst Place	<i>Magnolia`Black Tulip`</i>Borde Hill
<i>Magnolia`Butterflies`</i> Nymans	<i>Magnolia campbellii</i> . Borde Hill,Leonardslee,Wakehurst Place
<i>Magnolia campbellii</i> Alba Group..... Borde Hill, High Beeches	<i>Magnolia campbellii</i> subsp. <i>mollicomata</i>Borde Hill
* <i>Magnolia campbellii</i> subsp. <i>mollicomata`Borde Hill`</i> F.25655.....Borde Hill	* <i>Magnolia campbellii</i> subsp. <i>mollicomata`Jim Gardiner`</i> .Borde Hill
* <i>Magnolia campbellii</i> Raffillii GroupNymans, *Wakehurst Place	* <i>Magnolia`Cecil Nice`</i>Nymans
<i>Magnolia`Charles Coates`</i> Nymans	<i>Magnolia dealbata</i>Wakehurst Place
<i>Magnolia delavayi</i> Borde Hill	<i>Magnolia denudata</i> High Beeches,Nymans
<i>Magnolia doltsopa</i>Wakehurst Place	<i>Magnolia foveolata</i>Nymans
* <i>Magnolia fraseri</i>Borde Hill ,*Leonardslee	<i>Magnolia`Gold Star`</i>Nymans
<i>Magnolia grandiflora`Goliath`</i>High Beeches, Nymans	<i>Magnolia kobus</i>Borde Hill,High Beeches,Leonardslee
<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>Leonardslee	<i>Magnolia`Mary Slankard`</i>Nymans
<i>Magnolia`Maryland`</i>Nymans	* <i>Magnolia`Michael Rosse`</i>Nymans
* <i>Magnolia obovata</i> *Borde Hill,Nymans,Wakehurst Place	* <i>Magnolia officinalis</i>*Borde Hill,Nymans
<i>Magnolia officinalis</i> var. <i>biloba</i>Wakehurst Place	<i>Magnolia`Paul Cook`</i>Nymans
<i>Magnolia rostrata</i>Borde Hill	<i>Magnolia salicifolia</i>Leonardslee,Wakehurst Place
<i>Magnolia sargentiana</i> var. <i>robusta</i> ...Borde Hill,High Beeches,Nymans	* <i>Magnolia sprengeri</i> var. <i>diva</i> ...*Borde Hill, Leonardslee,,Wakehurst Place
* <i>Magnolia sprengeri</i> var. <i>sprengeri</i>*Nymans,Borde Hill	<i>Magnolia`Star Wars`</i>High Beeches
* <i>Magnolia`Thomas Messel`</i>Nymans	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>Borde Hill
<i>Magnolia`Wada`s Memory`</i>Nymans	<i>Magnolia x foggii`Picotee`</i>Nymans

Tree Register Of The British Isles

***Britain and Ireland Champions*(by height / girth),Sussex County Champion Magnolias
(continued)**

Magnolia x loebneri`Leonard Messel`.....Nymans

Magnolia x soulangeana`Alexandrina`.....High Beeches

Magnolia x soulangeana`Brozzoni`.....Borde Hill

Magnolia x soulangeana`RusticaRubra`.....Nymans

Magnolia x soulangeana`San Jose`.....Nymans

****Magnolia x soulangeana`Verbanica`.....BordeHill***

****Magnolia x veitchii.....Borde Hill, High Beeches, *Nymans***

****Magnolia x wieseneri.....Nymans***

Gravetye Manor *Magnolia campbellii*

Built in 1598. William Robinson moved here in 1885 until his death in 1935.

Converted into the UK's first Country House Hotel by Peter Herbert in 1958

The 17 room hotel and Michelin Star restaurant owned since 2010 by Jeremy and Elizabeth Hosking



Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens-Historical overview

Sir Edmund Loder moved here in 1888 having married Marion Hubbard of Leonardslee in 1878, establishing the first of the rhododendron dominated Grade I listed woodland gardens (wallabies introduced in 1889).

Sir Edmund died in 1920. His grandson Sir Giles took over keeping 98 Ha (240acres) and selling c.364Ha (900 acres)

The great storm of October 1987 felled c.1000 trees which the owner(Robin Loder) would never have had the courage to thin himself.

The garden was sold in 2010,and closed with no work in the garden being undertaken. Bought along with the house in 2017 by Penny Streeter (Benguela Collection) and re opened c.2020.



Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

Top Pond and Mossy Ghyll

During the end of 15th and 16th centuries, Sussex was the foremost iron making area of Britain .The great Sussex forests were important smelting areas, managed by controlled coppicing for charcoal production where the benefits of blast furnace technology introduced from Belgium were being used .

These ponds (also known as Hammer Ponds) are the evidence of the `pre-industrial age` for the Weald`s clay ironstone deposits being extracted by open cast mining for the production of iron-ore.



Leonardslee Lakes and Garden

Mossy Ghyll and Middle Walk in May

Mossy Ghyll was planted in 1952 to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Middle walk planted with a dazzling array of rhododendrons including Loderi Group, azaleas with the coast redwood standing at over 40m.



Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

The Rock Garden

Built in 1890 by James Pulham and Son

When the Streeter`s bought Leonardslee in 2017, the plantings of Kurume azaleas in particular, were overgrown.

Yet *Rhododendron yakushimanum*, *Rh.pseudochrysanthum* and Japanese maples were surprisingly not too badly affected.

Rhododendron sherriffii (below)



Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens

Rhododendron thompsonii x *arboreum*, *Rh. Loderi* Group, *Cornus kousa* 'Miss Satomi',
Magnolia sprengeri var *diva* (with TROBI Trustees, Jamie Harris (Head Gardener) and volunteers)

Rhododendron Loderi Group (*Rh. fortunei* x *Rh. griffithianum*) Raised by Sir Edmund Loder in 1901



The High Beeches-Historical overview

Sir Robert Loder bought the garden in 1846 and his grandson, Giles developed the garden as we see it today.

Edward and Anne Boscawen bought the 27acre Grade II* garden shortly after Giles' death in 1967 and is now run by their daughter Sarah and her husband Simon Bray.

The wildflower meadow is listed by Coronation Meadows and is the only garden in the UK where the Eastern European willow gentian, *Gentiana asclepiadea* is naturalised.



The High Beeches

Plant Heritage National Collection Holder of *Stewartia sinensis*, *S.rostrata* and *S.monodelpha*



The High Beeches- *Magnolia sargentiana* var. *robusta*

EH Wilson seed collection when at the Arnold Arboretum who sent collections to Europe via Chenault.
Having blown over in October 1987, the plant re grew sending up multiple shoots

E H Wilson and C S Sargent in The Arnold Arboretum (RBG Kew archive)



Nymans- Historical Overview and landscape

Ludwig Messel developed the 242Ha(600 acre) estate from 1890 with the house remodelled by his architect brother Alfred .With his head gardener James Comber saw the establishment and hybridisation of many woody plants .

Leonard inherited in 1915, together with James continued the gardens development. Later James`s son Harold collected plants in the Andes and Tasmania with the garden being known for its southern hemisphere plant collections

Leonard`s daughter Anne married the Earl of Rosse continuing their plant interests, particularly magnolias.

The house together with a magnificent book collection was destroyed by fire in 1947.

In 1953 Nymans became a National Trust property. An intimate garden has been developed within the ruins.



Nymans

Forsythia suspensa f. *atrocaulis* `Nymans` (introduced 1951)

Eucryphia x *nymansensis* `Nymansay`

(raised by James Comber c.1915)

Just two of about 40 plants named after the Garden



Nymans

Davidia involucrata var *vilmoriniana*

About 20 trees of similar size flower in the top garden during May



Nymans

Magnolia x loebneri `Leonard Messel` (selected and named by James Comber-head gardener)

The original plant (c.100 years) nearest the shed and `sister` seedlings,.
Their parents, *M.kobus* and *M.stellata*, no longer living, were in the top garden.



Nymans

Magnolia campbellii Raffillii Group



1905 RBG Kew Curatorial group. Charles Raffill (seated 3rd from left)

(L to R)

H.Irving, W.Watson, CPR, W.Hackett, A.Osborn, W.J. Bean, W.Dallimore (Kew Archive)



H. Irving.

W. Watson

W. Hackett

W. J. Bean

W. Dallimore

Charles Raffill

A. Osborn

Hedychium 'C.P. Raffill'



Nymans

Magnolia sargentiana var. *robusta* Wilson 923

Pollen from this species used to raise *Magnolia* 'Anne Rosse' and *M.* 'Cecil Nice'



Nymans
Magnolia
`Michael Rosse`
M. campbellii Alba
Group x
M. sargentiana var.
robusta
EX Caerhays



Magnolia
`Anne Rosse`
M. denudata x
M. sargentiana
var. *robusta*



Magnolia
`Cecil Nice`
M. denudata x
M. sargentiana
var. *robusta*
TROBI
Champion Tree



Nymans

Magnolia x wieseneri (*M.obovata* x *M.sieboldii*)

TROBI Champion Tree (c.10m)



Wakehurst Place- 73Ha (180acres)

Historical overview

1903-1936 Home of Gerald Loder (later Lord Wakehurst)

1965-RBG Kew (by way of a 99year lease from the National Trust)

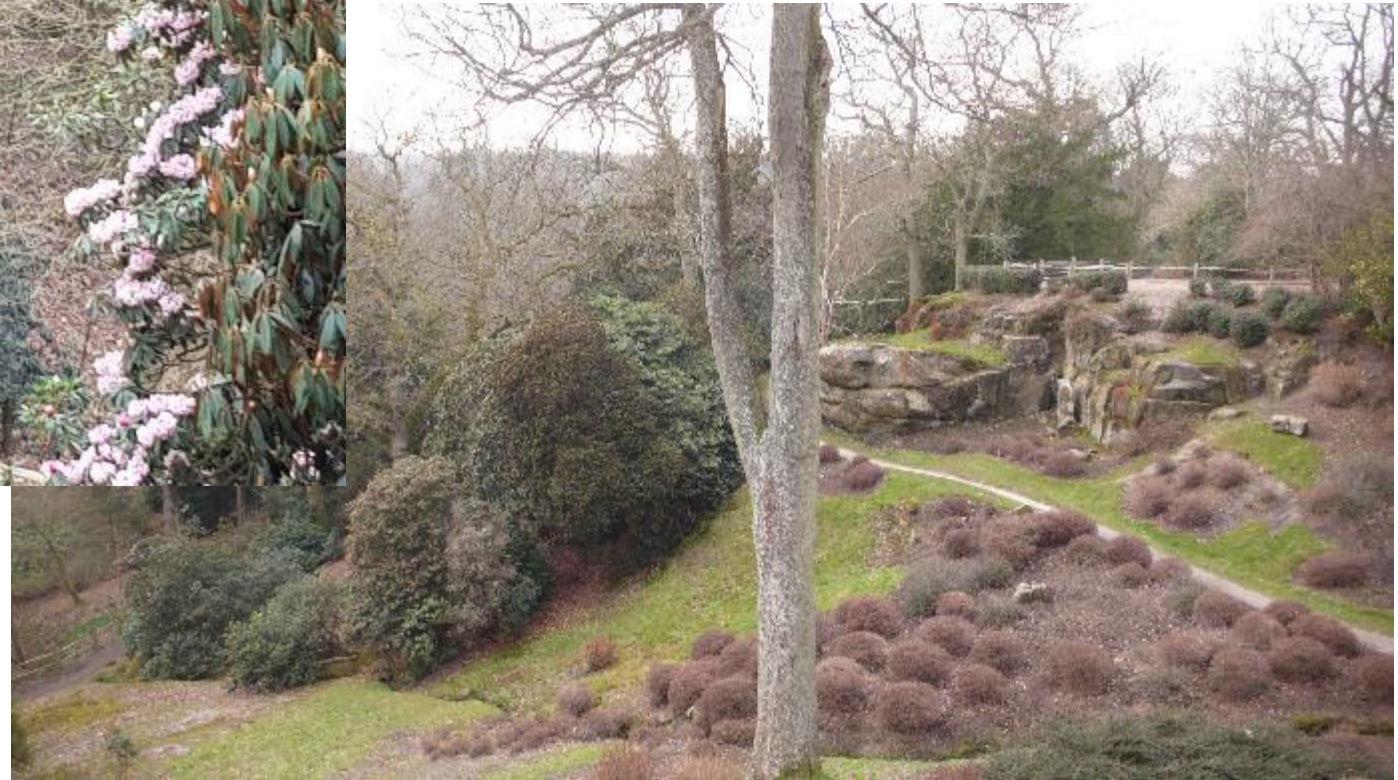
2000 Millennium Seed Bank (c.10% of the worlds flora and c.97% of the British flora)



Wakehurst Place

Westwood Valley

(beyond Westwood valley American species and Southern Hemisphere species have been planted)



Wakehurst Pace

Pinetum- *Pinus engelmannii*

National Collection of Birch-Betula OGIM 95094

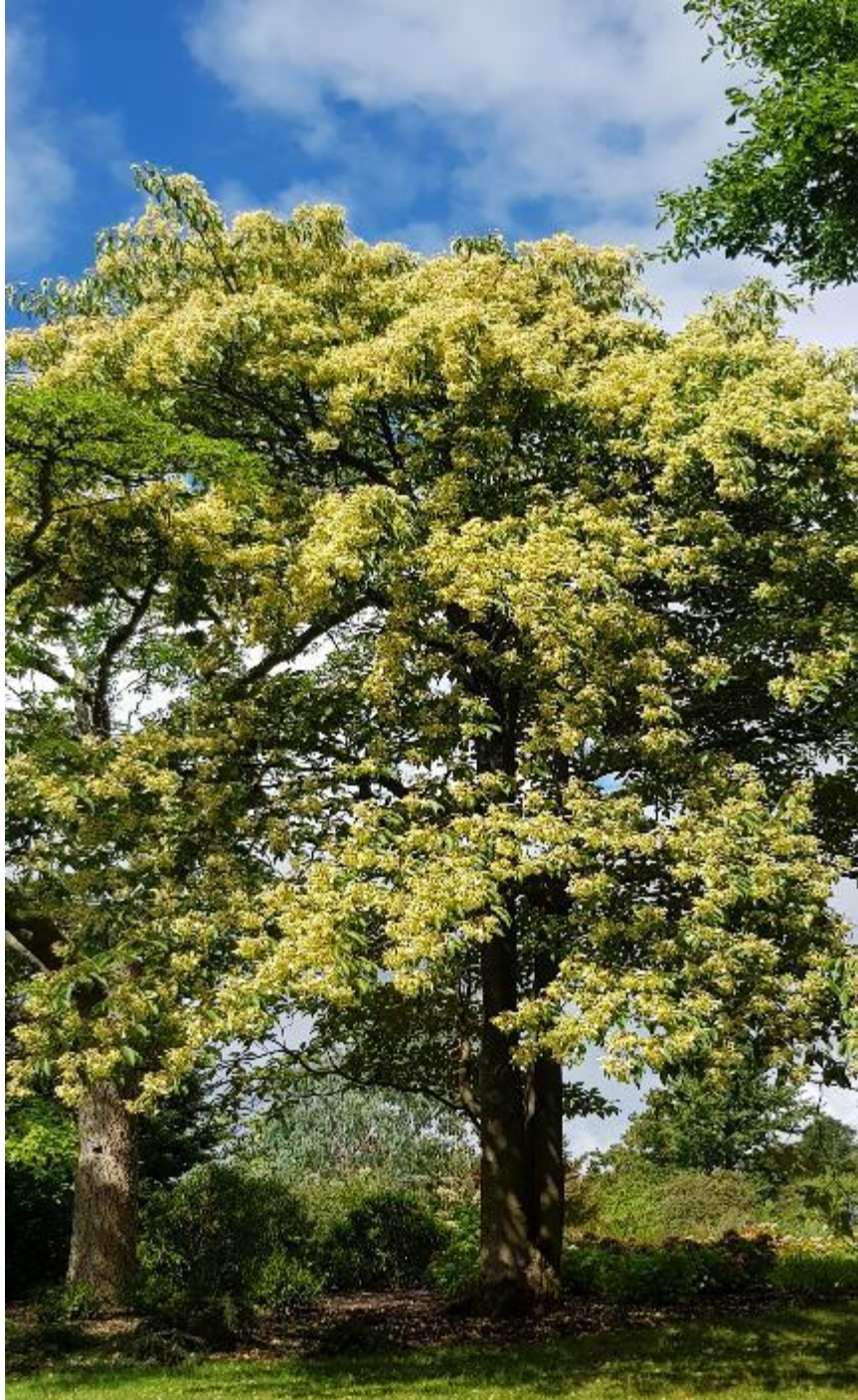


Wakehurst Place

Trans-Asian Heath Garden (following the Storm of October 1987, Curator Tony Schilling developed this landscape)

Rhododendron yakushimanum *Sorbus ulleungensis* KFBX174





Wakehurst Place

Emmenopterys henryi

Appears to be a different seed collection to the Forrest and Wilson collections grown at Borde Hill.



Wakehurst Place
Magnolia campbellii Raffillii Group
`Wakehurst Place`



Borde Hill. Historical overview:

1598. Stephen Borde (grandson of Andrew, physician to King Henry VIII) rebuilt the Elizabethan mansion house.

1893. Colonel Stephenson Robert Clarke came to live **1900 onwards** Encouraged by Henry Elwes (a relative of SRC's wife-Edith Godman) to collect trees, and William Robinson of Gravetye (right plant-right place). Financially supported plant collecting expeditions led by Farrer, Forrest, Kingdon-Ward and Wilson and latterly the Combers.

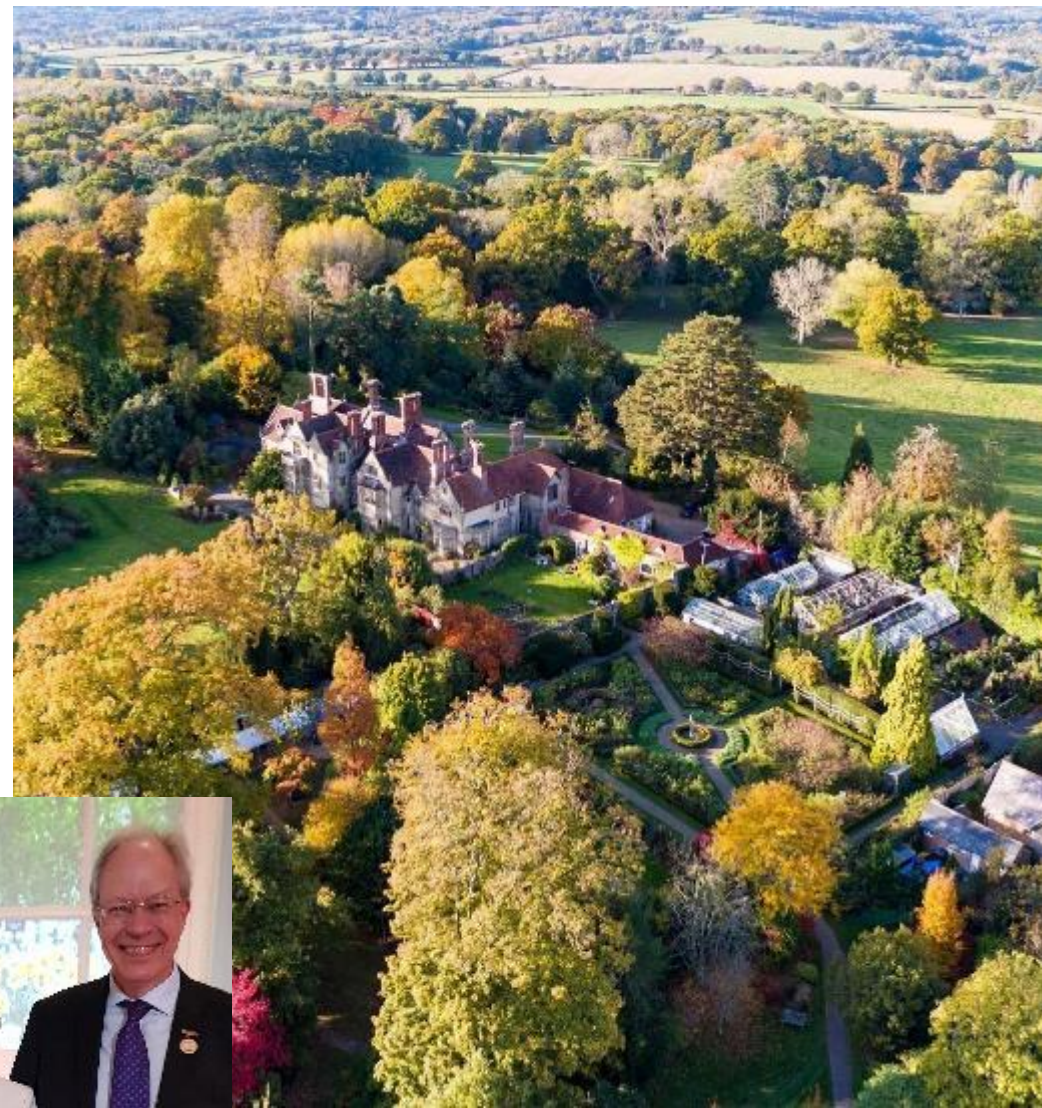
It was Sir Harold Hillier who described SRC as 'the greatest amateur all-rounder in the gardening world of the 20th Century'.

1948. Sir Ralph SC took over and set up the Garden as a Charity in 1965, governed by a Council.

1970. Robert SC took over becoming an authority on rhododendrons

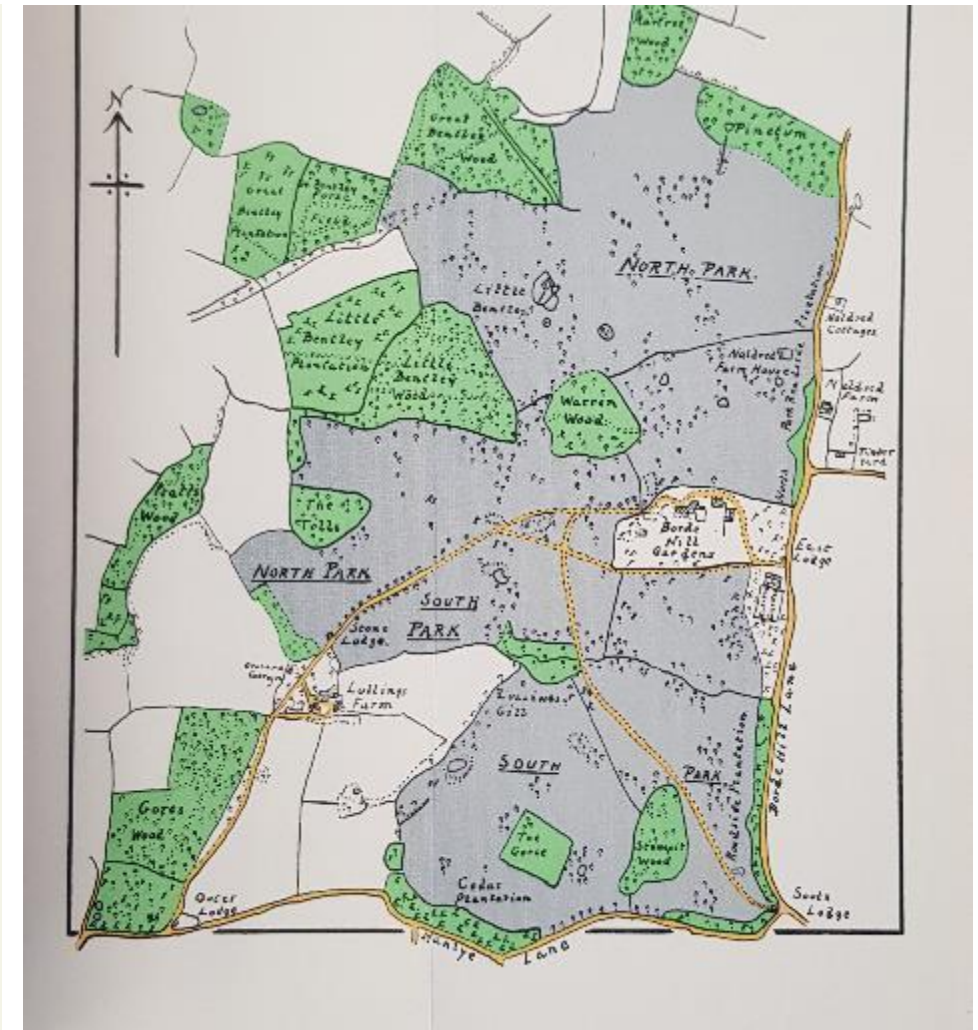
1988 Andrewjohn and Eleni SC (the 4th Generation) built up the garden creating many of today's garden features

2023/24. Andrewjohn and Eleni handed over to the 5th generation Jay Robin and Harry to manage the garden and Grade II* heritage listed landscape, maintaining its 'integrity' of its woody plant collections.



Borde Hill Garden map (2024)

Copy of the Borde Hill map from the Tree and Shrub Catalogue (1932)
 Until SRC's death in 1946 he continued to plant rare trees across the estate including
 Gores Wood, Little Bentley Wood, Warren Wood, Stephanies Glade and The Tolls



Borde Hill-Catalogue of Trees and Shrubs (published in 1935)

Including annotations made by Stephenson Robert Clarke

(See reference to *Magnolia dawsoniana* originally from E H Wilson received from Chenault)

CATALOGUE OF THE TREES AND SHRUBS (EXCLUDING RHODODENDRONS)

AT
BORDE HILL
SUSSEX

IN DECEMBER 1932

COMPILED BY
ALBERT BRUCE JACKSON, A.L.S.
(Veitch Memorial Medalist 1923)

WITH A FOREWORD AND
NOTES BY
Colonel STEPHENSON ROBERT CLARKE
C.B.


OXFORD
Printed at the UNIVERSITY PRESS
By JOHN JOHNSON
1935

BORDE HILL



S.R.C.

MAGNOLIA ACUMINATA
(Family MAGNOLIACEAE.)
SOUTH PARK. No. 615, a
1 ft. 4 in. in 1930 and about 30
A second tree south of
* MAGNOLIA CAMPBELLII
vide *M. mollicomata* W. W. S
Western Yunnan.
GARDEN. No. 172 on the we
is a tree 20 ft. high which flowered
plant No. 41 (Forrest, No. 25655)
as *M. mollicomata*, the seed bei
Yunnan. It is now 7 ft. high. I
conspicuously downy, the great
Lodge bearing leaves that are fat
A tree south of the Kitchen G
THE WARREN. No. 1119 is 16
that promises that it will soon
Garden.
THE TOLLS. The largest specim
ling from Messrs. Gill in 1925 and
There are also here three or fou
seed collected in Ireland by Lad
her to Borde Hill. *Plant from*
plant come here as *mollicomata* - several were raised, all resemble
Campbell's variety
MAGNOLIA CORDATA Michaux. (Syn. *M. acuminata* var.
cordata Sargent.) South-Eastern United States.
GARDEN. No. 23 at the south end of the Long Dell was 14 ft.
high in 1930. The flowers vary in colour but are very rarely
a good yellow. Those on a small tree which unfortunately died
were of a richer shade.
THE WARREN. No. 1154 was 12 ft. high in 1931.
Gore's Woods. Two young trees from Manchoum plant 1933
MAGNOLIA DAWSONIANA Rehder and Wilson. Sze-
chuan.
GARDEN. No. 155, a symmetrical young tree 13 ft. high in
a bed near the Kennels, was received from Chenault.
THE WARREN. No. 1085 is 14 ft. high, but not so well
furnished.
They have grown rapidly but have not yet bloomed in
1931 - 14 Aug. 1936. No. 155 is among beds, but the first tree
Two flowers opened April 1937 they were small & white & apparently had
been injured by frost. Flowered 1948 & 1949. Then not again until very
few 1947.



Stephenson R. Clarke

Borde Hill

Emmenopterys henryi

Flowering in 2018

Borde Hill's logo using
this flower as their
emblem from 2023

Forrest's introduction,
planted 1928.

EH Wilson's introduction
is also found growing on
the Azalea Ring



Borde Hill House(dating from 1598)

The garden is set within c.150 Ha (383acres) of Grade II* heritage listed landscape in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Magnolia grandiflora `Goliath` against the south wall.



Borde Hill

Azalea Ring

Knap Hill azaleas bred by the two Anthony Waterer`s(father and son) During SRC`s annual visit to their nursery during the early 1900`s he selected cvs for planting.
Notable woody plants include *Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis*



Borde Hill

Jay Robin`s Rose Garden

Designed by Robin Williams in 1996 planted in groups of English Roses bred by David Austin



Borde Hill - Paradise Walk

Runs along the southern boundary of the garden with entrances to the Italian Garden and Round Dell



Borde Hill

Italian garden Formerly the tennis court and was converted by Robert SC in the 1980`s



Borde Hill- The Round Dell.

Designed by Sophie Walker in 2017 using plants collected by modern-day collectors including Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones and John Kuhlman (*Magnolia macrophylla*)



Borde Hill- Warren Wood

Chamaecyparis formosensis. Collected by Henry Elwes in 1912 with TROBI Trustees and Harry Baldwin-Head of Horticulture.

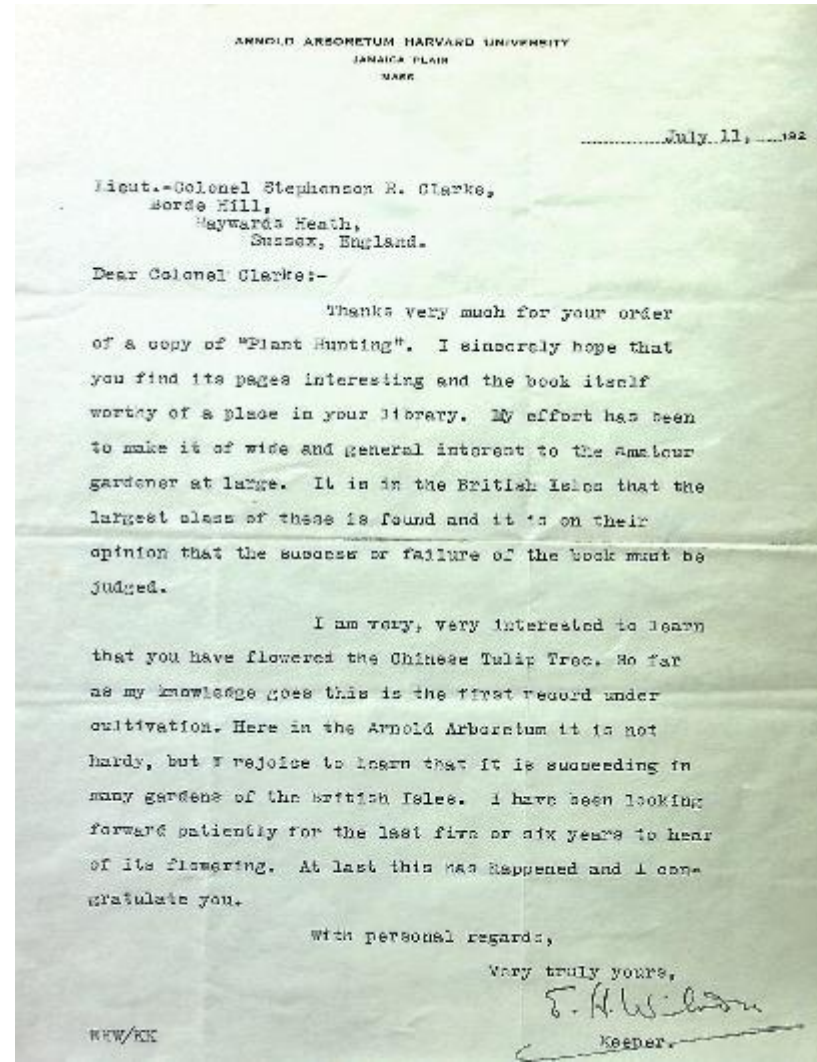
Meliosma alba Collected by E H Wilson in 1907. with Andrewjohn SC, Charles Williams and JMG. Fruited in 2018 with a few seedlings raised.





Borde Hill- Garden of Allah *Liriodendron chinense*

Letter in the Borde Hill archive from
E H Wilson to SRC regarding the first
flowering



Borde Hill- *Liriodendron chinense*



Borde Hill

Camellia x williamsii 'Donation'

(*Camellia saluenensis* x *C.japonica* 'Masayoshi' ('Donckelari'))

Bred by BH Head Gardener Walter Fleming, introduced 1937/38
(A.M.1941,FCC.1952,FCCT.1974,AGM.1993)

Fleming also bred *Camellia* 'Salutation'

(*Camellia saluenensis* x *C.reticulata*) (A.M.1936)



Borde Hill

Magnolia campbellii subsp. *mollicomata*

`Borde Hill` F.25655

SRC's notes of Forrest's Magnolias in the archive



25208.	Michelia floribunda.	
25287.	Magnolia mollicomata.	
25288.	do.	do.
25302.	Magnolia champaca.	
25319.	Michelia floribunda.	
25406.	Magnolia mollicomata.	
25655.	do.	do. — S.R.C's
25751.	do.	rostrata.
26198.	Michelia floribunda.	
26239.	do.	do.
26258.	do.	excelsa.
26286.	Magnolia mollicomata.	

Borde Hill –The Azalea Ring

Magnolia campbellii

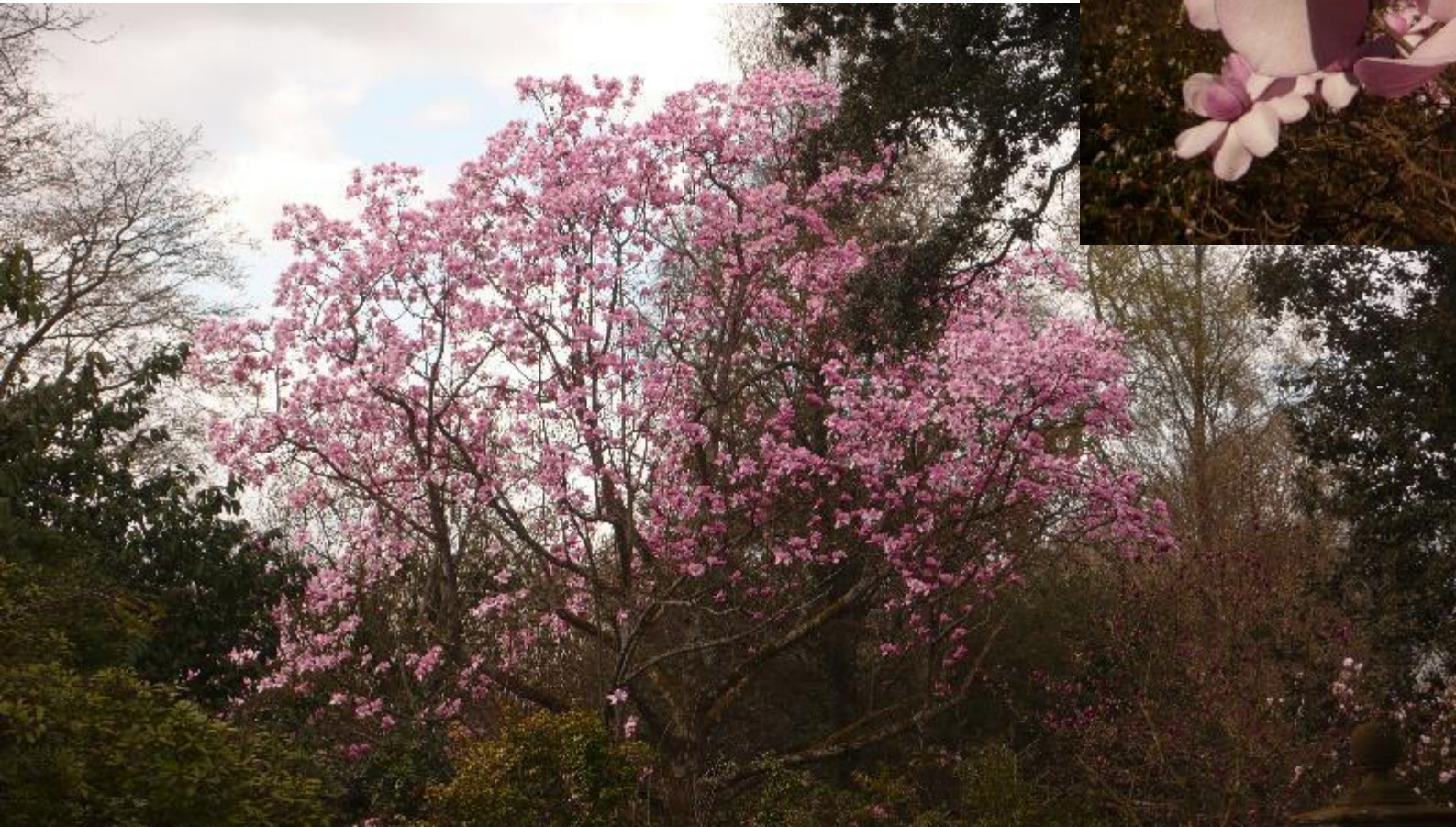
Seed was sent by Lady Phyllis Moore,
Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin about 100 years
ago
c.20m



Borde Hill-The Garden of Allah

Magnolia campbellii subsp. *mollicomata*

Possibly Forrest seed
Ex Caerhays(1939)



Borde Hill- Old Rhododendron Garden

Magnolia dawsoniana and *M.sargentiana* var.*robusta* (far right) - EH Wilson introductions. Sent from the Arnold Arboretum to Chenault`s Nursery and onto Borde Hill as seedlings immediately after the first world war.(*M.dawsoniana* pictured)



Borde Hill-

The Old Rhododendron Garden *Magnolia sprengeri* var *diva*

Thought to be a 1st generation seedling from Caerhays, planted 1930`s



Borde Hill- The Azalea Ring

Magnolia x soulangeana` Brozzonii`

Planted in 1908 received from Louis Leroy
of Angers



Borde Hill- The Kitchen Garden

Magnolia delavayi planted 1911



Borde Hill- The Italian Garden, Upper Terrace

Magnolia grandiflora 'Kay Parris'

'welcoming in the new year'



Borde Hill. The Garden of Allah

The Holy Trinity – *Magnolia officinalis*, *M. fraseri*, (both planted 1933) *M. obovata* (planted 1935)





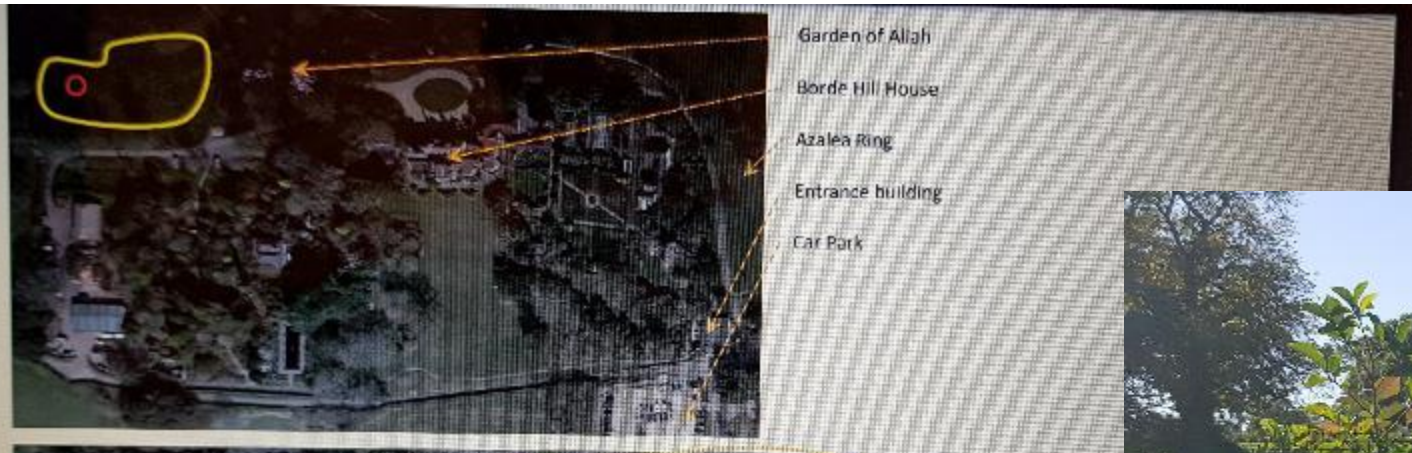
Borde Hill
The Garden of Allah

Magnolia officinalis
(13m) far left
Magnolia fraseri
(15m) centre
Magnolia obovata
(15m) far right



Borde Hill- Gardiner Grove

Designed in 2018 for horticultural, educational and scientific value, 50 hybrids of *Magnolia acuminata* and hybrids of *M. sprengeri* have been planted with each circle using taxa of similar breeding lines eg: *M. x brooklynensis* `Eva Maria`, `Hattie Carthan`, `Woodsman`, `Yellow Bird` *M.* `Hot Flash`, *M.* `Sunsation`, *M.* `Sun Spire`, *M.* `Daphne`, *M.* `Olivia` are one of the circles. Each circle to be horticulturally managed over a 10 year cycle.



M. sprengeri `Dusty Pink`



Borde Hill - The Gardiner Grove

John Ravenscroft of Cherry Tree Arboretum gifted magnolias grafted by Chris Brookes



THANK YOU

Borde Hill- *Magnolia campbellii* subsp. *mollicomata* `Jim Gardiner`

