

# magnificent **MAGNOLIAS**

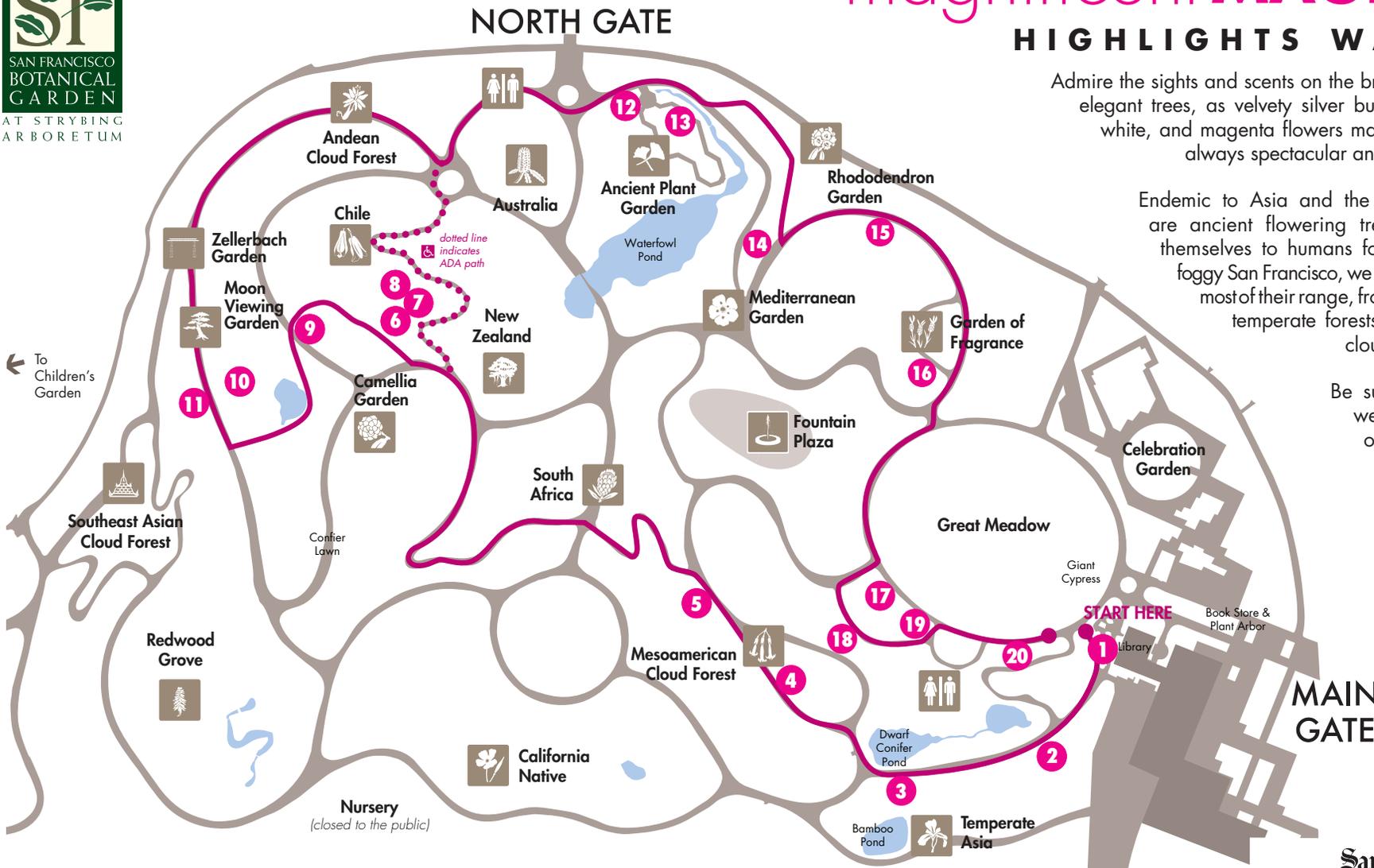
## HIGHLIGHTS WALK 2022

Admire the sights and scents on the branches of more than 200 elegant trees, as velvety silver buds and saucer-sized pink, white, and magenta flowers make an appearance in this always spectacular annual bloom at the Garden.

Endemic to Asia and the New World, *Magnolias* are ancient flowering trees that have endeared themselves to humans for millennia. Here in cool, foggy San Francisco, we cultivate species from across most of their range, from the monsoon-influenced, temperate forests of the Himalayas to the cloud forests of Mesoamerica.

Be sure to visit the Garden's website for a complete list of activities celebrating this magnificent bloom!

[sfbg.org](http://sfbg.org)



Look for **PINK SIGNS** in the Garden to identify highlighted plants, and see reverse for descriptions of each. You can also scan QR codes on signage for additional information and photos.

1. *Magnolia laevifolia* 'Strybing Compact'
2. *Magnolia campbellii* 'Darjeeling'
3. *Magnolia dawsoniana*
4. *Magnolia sharpii*
5. *Magnolia macrophylla* var. *dealbata*
6. *Magnolia liliiflora*
7. *Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Rustic Rubra'

8. *Magnolia campbellii*
9. *Magnolia denudata*
10. *Magnolia campbellii* 'Strybing White'
11. *Magnolia doltsopa*
12. *Magnolia x alba*
13. *Magnolia officinalis*
14. *Magnolia x veitchii*

15. *Magnolia campbellii* 'Late Pink'
16. *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Russet'
17. *Magnolia sprengeri*
18. *Magnolia zenii*
19. *Magnolia amoena*
20. *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea'



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## ABOUT THE MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIA GARDEN COLLECTION

In the winter of 1940, horticultural history was made at the newly-opened San Francisco Botanical Garden when its exotic cup and saucer magnolia (*Magnolia campbellii*) became the first of its kind to bloom in the United States. Huge crowds of excited and curious visitors stood in long lines to see the stunning, large, pink blossoms of this famous *Magnolia* that still stands in the Garden today (map #8). That was just the beginning. The Garden is now home to more than 200 *Magnolias*—many rare and historic. The Garden's current collection includes 53 species, 41 cultivars, and 6 hybrids. This collection is the most significant collection for conservation purposes in the United States. Read more about the Garden's prized specimens and enjoy!

**1 *Magnolia laevifolia* 'Strybing Compact'** – This cultivar of *Magnolia laevifolia* was selected here at San Francisco Botanical Garden. It was selected for its compact, more shrub-like form, while the straight species can grow up to heights of 3 meters. Blooms March–April.

**2 *Magnolia campbellii* 'Darjeeling'** – Thought by many to be the most spectacular of all the *Magnolias* that bloom at the Garden, this Himalayan selection was propagated from a tree at the Lloyd Botanic Garden in Darjeeling, India, and offers magnificent deep pink flowers emerging on leafless branches for a dramatic display.

**3 *Magnolia dawsoniana*** – This endangered *Magnolia* from China, named after the first superintendent of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, Jackson Thornton Dawson, has large pink flowers—up to 25 centimeters or 10 inches—that droop with age and resemble flags blowing in the wind.

**4 *Magnolia sharpii*** – This endangered *Magnolia* is only known from five locations in the cloud forests of the Chiapas region in Mexico. There it is threatened with habitat destruction due to human activities such as timber harvesting and agriculture.

**5 *Magnolia macrophylla* var. *dealbata*** – Commonly called bigleaf magnolia, this native of Mexico is appropriately named, as the handsome leaves can reach up to 30 inches in length. In the summer, the flowers are cream-colored with a semi-sweet scent.

**6 *Magnolia liliiflora*** – Native to China, this compact, rounded, shrubby, deciduous *Magnolia* typically matures to 8 to 12 feet tall and as wide. Its goblet- or lily-shaped, purple-pink flowers appear in spring at the time of, or shortly before, leaf development. The specific epithet *liliiflora* indicates its flowers are lily-like.

**7 *Magnolia x soulangeana* 'Rustica Rubra'** – It was in 1820 that Etienne Soulange-Bodin pollinated *M. denudata* with *M. liliiflora* to produce the very popular *M. x soulangeana*. Since then many hybrids have been raised resulting in many different cultivars including 'Rustica Rubra', a Dutch clone raised at the end of the nineteenth century in Boskoop. The reddish-purple flowers, pink-white within, feature the classic goblet shape.

**8 *Magnolia campbellii*** – Native to the Himalayas, the cup and saucer magnolia, also known as the pink tulip tree, was introduced to the U.S. in 1924. Planted by Eric Walther, the Garden's first Director, this specimen was the first of its species to bloom in the U.S. in 1940 at age 17. Its large, fragrant flowers can reach up to 10 inches across, and they may be white or shades of light to deep pink.

**9 *Magnolia denudata*** – The first *Magnolia* from the East introduced to the western world when brought to England in 1780, it is one of the parents of many cultivars. Called the "yulan" or "jade orchid" by the Chinese, and featuring exquisite, pure white blossoms, *M. denudata* has the longest known history of cultivation among magnolias, dating back to the Tang Dynasty –618 C.E. Its beauty was celebrated on ancient Chinese embroideries, scrolls, and porcelains in scenes of the countryside.

**10 *Magnolia campbellii* 'Strybing White'** – The largest *Magnolia* at the Garden, towering over 80 feet, this special white form of the species was grown from seed purchased in India in 1934, propagated at the Golden Gate Park Nursery, and planted here in 1940.

**11 *Magnolia doltsopa*** – An evergreen *Magnolia* formerly known as *Michelia doltsopa*, the commonly-named "sweet michelia" was first described near Kathmandu, Nepal around 1803. The highly fragrant white flowers are about 6 inches across, opening from velvety-brown buds. While this species is often grown as a street tree in the Bay Area, the specimens in the Garden are some of the largest in cultivation in California.

**12 *Magnolia x alba*** – The hybrid consists of two Asian species, *M. champaca* and *M. montana*. It is a beautiful, subtropical tree with deeply fragrant flowers from which an extract is used as a primary ingredient in some of the world's most expensive perfumes.

**13 *Magnolia officinalis*** – This endangered, deciduous tree is native to China where it has a wide but decreasing population. Cultivated to supply bark to the commercial market, the bark is used in traditional Chinese and Japanese medicines for the treatment of a variety of maladies.

**14 *Magnolia x veitchii*** – *M. x veitchii* is a vigorous, deciduous, upright, large shrub or small tree, attractive to bees and pollinating insects. A cross between *M. campbellii* and *M. denudata*, it was originally produced by Robert Veitch in 1907.

**15 *Magnolia campbellii* 'Late Pink'** – Introduced at the Garden from seed purchased in 1934 from G. Ghose and Co. in Darjeeling, India, the flowers of this *Magnolia* appear 2 to 4 weeks later than other *M. campbellii* specimens in our collection.

**16 *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Russet'** – This evergreen *Magnolia* native to southeastern United States is notable for its attractive, dark green leaves and its large, extremely fragrant flowers. The specific epithet *grandiflora* is from Latin meaning "large flowers." Indeed, the flowers can be up to twelve inches across.

**17 *Magnolia sprengeri*** – This deciduous *Magnolia* is native to central China. In the forests there, mature specimen have been found growing to heights of 21 meters. Its rosy colored flowers appear before the leaves emerge and have a lovely fragrance.

**18 *Magnolia zenii*** – The rarest *Magnolia* in the Garden and IUCN red-listed as critically endangered, only a few dozen of these plants were found when they were discovered in China in 1931.

**19 *Magnolia amoena*** – The "charming magnolia" was found on China's Mt. Hwang in 1933. This particular tree was a gift from the Shanghai Botanical Garden, presented to the Garden by then-Mayor Diane Feinstein in 1982.

**20 *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea'** – Endangered in the wild in its native Japan but widely cultivated in North America, Europe, and beyond, the species name, *stellata*, means star. Normally a white flowered species with narrow tepals radiating out like a star, this cultivar, 'Rosea', has fragrant pink flowers.

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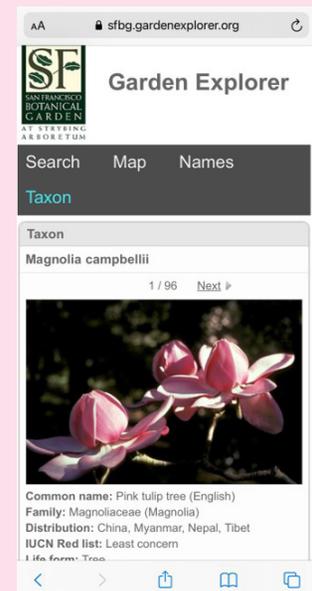
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Memberships start at \$70. Sign up at the kiosk or online at [sfbg.org/membership](https://sfbg.org/membership).

## CHECK OUT THE MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIAS ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

### HERE'S HOW:

1. Open your smart phone's camera app
2. Point phone at QR code on numbered pink label
3. Tap link that will appear on screen
4. Learn more about each featured *Magnolia* on Garden Explorer.



## BOOKSTORE & PLANT ARBOR

Enjoy special *Magnolia* items in the Garden Bookstore. Purchase a plant at the Plant Arbor and bring the Garden home!

## ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN

SFBG offers 55 acres of gardens displaying 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world. In addition to winter's *Magnolia* bloom, the Garden features a bounty of other seasonal highlights, including a century-old Redwood Grove, as well as Mesoamerican, Andean, and Southeast Asian cloud forest collections, among other unique global plant collections.

To get the latest updates on magnolias in bloom, follow us on **Instagram** (@sfbotanicalgarden), **Facebook** (facebook.com/SanFranciscoBotanicalGarden), and **Twitter** (@SFBGS). To learn more about the Garden, visit [sfbg.org](https://sfbg.org).