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*Gordonia*

*Theaceae*

*Gordonia* commemorates a British nurseryman, James Gordon who died in 1781. After serving as gardener to Lord Petre (1713-1742) of Thorndon Hall in Essex, James Gordon eursery at Mile End in London where amongst other plants he grew loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*). During his life he also corresponded with the distinguished Swedish naturalist and physician, Carolus Linnaeus.