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*Magnolia x soulangiana*

[Synonyms : *Magnolia x soulangeana*]

**SAUCER MAGNOLIA** is a deciduous shrub or tree. A European hybrid it has sometimes fragrant, rose-pink to violet-purple outside, creamy-white inside flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as Chinese magnolia, Japanese magnolia, Japanese tulip tree, Purple magnolia, Rustica rubra, Soulange Bodin's magnolia, and Tree tulip.

The flowers are pollinated by bees.

Warning – some authorities note that bark and leaves may cause skin irritation and the wood may induce bronchitis.

*Soulangiana* commemorates a French cavalry officer, politician, and botanist, Etienne Soulange-Bodin (1774-1846), in whose garden at Fromont outside Paris this accidental magnolia hybrid made its appearance in 1826. Napoleon Bonaparte decorated him with the Legion of Honour.

Authorities believe that this flower developed from a cross of two close relatives (*Magnolia heptapetala* and *Magnolia liliflora*). It is said to be the most commonly grown ornamental magnolia today.