

Exmouth's famous tree.



Magnolia grandiflora 'Exmouth'

(syn. *M. grandiflora* 'Exoniensis' *M. grandiflora* 'Lanceolata')

Flowers: Very large, fragrant, creamy white flowers with a spicy or fruity fragrance. The saucer shaped flowers are 8-10" (20-25cm) across and are amongst the finest of all the magnolias.

Flowering Season: Produced continuously during late summer and autumn.

Mature Height: 40-50ft (12m-15m) but can be easily kept as a smaller tree.

Mature Width: 25ft (8m).

Growth Rate: Medium.

Details: A truly elegant and graceful tree with an upright habit. It grows well against a wall or as a free standing specimen where it can provide a shady place to sit in the garden. Huge, waxy flowers are produced as big as dinner plates even on quite young trees. Thick, leathery, dark green leaves with a rusty-red felt underneath, particularly when young. Very hardy and tolerant, requiring minimal care once established.

History: The original specimen of *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Exmouth' grew in the garden of Sir John Colliton who lived in Exmouth in the early 1700's. Eventually, this became one of the largest evergreen magnolias in the country. During the mid 1700's, demand for plants outstripped supply and it was during this period that the original tree was rented out to local nurserymen on a rotational basis in order for them to produce more plants. Young rooted trees were sold at 5 guineas which is equivalent today of at least £500 each. In 1794, the original tree was accidentally cut down.