

THE  
N O R T H   A M E R I C A N  
S Y L V A.

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MAGNOLIAS.

Magnoliaceæ. Juss.

THE trees and shrubs which compose this genus are, without exception, natives of Asia and America, where they are found nearly in the same latitude, being included between the 28th and 42nd parallels.

All the Magnolias are adorned with beautiful foliage, and most of them with magnificent flowers. The species which are indigenous to North America, and particularly those which grow in the southern part of the United States, are in these respects the most remarkable; hence, for more than half a century, they have been highly esteemed in Europe as ornamental vegetables. In the climates of London and Paris, several of the Asiatic and one of the American species require to be sheltered in the winter, to secure them from the danger of perishing by cold.

Of thirteen species of Magnolias which have hitherto been distinctly ascertained, five belong to China and Japan. Of these, the *Magnolia Yulan* is the largest. It attains the height of 30 or 40 feet, and its flowers, which are nearly 6 inches in diameter, diffuse a delicious odor. It has been cultivated during several centuries, and serves particularly for the embellishment of the Emperor of China's gardens. In Chinese poetry it figures as the symbol of candor and of beauty.

Of the eight remaining species, which are natives of the New World, one belongs to the West Indies, and seven to the United States: others will