The original 'Griffin' plant, in a city park at Griffin, Georgia, is a multistemmed, compact, spreading tree, with leathery leaves having a glossy upper surface and brown indumentum, smaller and more acute at both apex and base than is usual for *M. grandiflora.* Its fragrant white flowers, freely produced over a long season, are large, and usually 12-petalled, borne on long peduncles which place them above the foliage. The red-coloring fruits, also well-displayed, are of smaller diameter and smoother than average for *M. grandiflora.* The abundant seeds have given somewhat variable seedlings with mostly better than usual *M. grandiflora* foliage. McDaniel finds its pollen compatible in a cross on deciduous *M. virginiana.*

Both authors had strong rooting (100% for Mrs. Groves) with IBA-treated 'Griffin' cuttings stuck in the greenhouse in early December. Mrs. Groves is a commercial propagator and has agreed to supply other propagators with cutting material. Its hardiness northward remains to be tested, but we can recommend 'Griffin' both as a superior evergreen and flowering cultivar for the areas where *M. grandiflora* now is generally grown, and as a select seed source.

NEW ORNAMENTAL TREE CULTIVARS OFFERED FROM ILLINOIS TO PROPAGATORS, 1969-70

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Can you help us test some meritorious new ornamentals? We are planning to distribute to selected nursery propagators and some arboretums in early 1970, a few scions from two new hybrid magnolia cultivars originated here, and a self-fertile clone of *M. acuminata,* plus some other small flowering trees recently named, registered, and test propagated. I should like to hear from you soon if you are interested in initiating propagation of any one or more of the following items, none of which is patented.

1. *Magnolia* 'Ballerina' is a Loebner magnolia, seedling of *M.* x *loebneri* 'Spring Snow', possibly crossed with *M. stellata* 'Waterlily'. Of similar season to the well-known Loebner magnolia 'Merrill', this has considerably more double flowers (to 30+ petals), is slightly pink-blushed and more highly fragrant. Judged by its first twelve years growth, it apparently will mature as a smaller tree than 'Merrill', but larger than *M. stellata.* The 1969 tests showed a high percentage of strong rooting with May to July leafy cuttings stuck under mist after IBA dip. For grafting as cutting-source trees, I suggest either *M. soulangiana* or *M. acuminata* understocks, rather than *M. kobus,* whose foliage may be confusingly similar and could lead

to later mixups, as have already occurred with 'Merrill'.

2. *M.* x *thompsoniana* 'Urbana' is a new hardy clone of this old hybrid, recreated in Urbana by crossing old local trees of *M. virginiana* x *M. tripetala.* Leaves and flowers are of intermediate size, but flowers have the good *M. virginiana* fragrance. It has been grafted on *M. tripetala* and *M. virginiana* stocks, and also rooted under mist in early summer.

3. *M. acuminata* 'Philo' is a large, nearly century-old tree of this species, exceptional among most of *M. acuminata* in setting heavy seed crops from its own pollen. It is suggested for propagation as a seed-source cultivar, since productive trees of this species are often hard to locate. The flowers are about average, but the red colored fruits are decorative in September. Grafted as a pollen source, it should also increase the seed production of any other *M. acuminata* tree in the immediate vicinity.

4. *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Ardis' is a "compact model" tuliptree, with miniature foliage and about ⅓ the normal growth rate of the species. The original tree has not flowered much during its first 12 years, but has made a very decorative small tree. Flowers in 1969 yielded two fruits.

5. *Chionanthus virginicus* 'Floyd' like the preceding item, originated as a seedling on the Floyd Sonnemann farm near Vandalia, Illinois. This is notable for its narrow upright to slightly arching growth, much neater than the usual white fringetree. It has the large flower panicles typical of male fringetrees, but does produce a light scattering of fruit.

6. *Koelreuteria paniculata* 'September', whose original tree is on the Indiana University campus, Bloomington, Indiana, flowers two months later than typical trees of the species, or in very late August to September in this climate. Most, but perhaps not 100% of its seedlings are also the late flowering type. It seems to grow somewhat more vigorously than typical *K. paniculata,* and to have larger flower clusters and fruits. I have propagated it by leafy cuttings (old wood at the base) in May or June, and also from root cuttings started in vermiculite in spring. Either scions or root cuttings are available in limited quantities.

Our available material of some of these items is not large, so we may have to prorate them, or delay filling late requests. Enough scions should be available from item 3, and perhaps items 4 and 5, to supply all who request them.

AL FORDHAM: We next have Mr. Rodney Bailey who has a plant he would like to show.

RODNEY BAILEY: *Prunus virginiaan* 'Shubert' has the common name Canada red cherry. It was a seedling sport which originated in North Dakota several years ago. An interesting feature about it is that the new growth comes out green and then turns to a red as the leaves mature; in July the whole plant is red. It's completely hardy and appears to be disease and insect resistant. In our area its a good substitute for the

red-leaved maple; it can be grown as a single stem or a multiple stem tree and attains a height of around 25 ft. It roots quite readily from softwood cuttings or can be grafted on *Prunus padus*. The fruit is a wine-red and is not messy since the birds will take it off as fast as it ripens.

AL FORDHAM: Thank you, Rodney. Next, we will hear from Mr. Roy Nordine.

ROY NORDINE: These are slides of the honeysuckle collection at the Morton Arboretum. This is a dwarf form of *Lonicera tatarica* called *L. tatarica* 'Nana'. It is pink-flowered and fruits like others but grows only half as high, going to a little less than 6 ft tall and about as broad. It's not at all leggy and makes an excellent appearance during its entire life.

Next is a plant derived from a witches' broom, *Acer ginnala* 'Durand Dwarf'. This particular plant is grafted on *Acer ginnala* and is 3 to 4 ft high and a little bit wider. It colors up typical of *Acer ginnala* in the fall of the year. It grafts readily on *Acer ginnala.*

This is a very dwarf form of a common plant in Europe, *Genista tinctoria;* its name is *Genista tinctoria* 'Hirsuta' because of the hairy leaves. Its mature height is less than 3 feet. It blooms at the end of the flowering season in the spring and is a brilliant yellow. It roots very easily from softwood cuttings.

At the Arboretum we propose the use of native American plants at every opportunity; here is one that attracts a great deal of attention. This is *Fothergilla major;* it has excellent fall color. There is a small one, *Fothergilla gardenii,* which is available in the trade.

Another plant to which I would like to call your attention is *Cladrastis lutea,* an American tree that belongs to the legume family. This family of plants, especially the trees, have not been overlooked but they have not been thoroughly looked into either. One of the advantages of these trees is that their roots do not compete with the grass. They are beautifully shaped strong shade trees and have excellent fall color. There is a pink flowered form called *Cladrastis lutea* 'Rosea'; this is a group of plants that I think that should be more available in the trade.

AL FORDHAM: Thank you, Roy. Dr. Mehlquist has some rhododendrens on which he would like to have your opinion.

GUS MEHLQUIST: These pictures were taken by some friends of mine in Lebanon last spring. When they returned they wanted to know what species it is and if it has any value. I'm not sure yet what species it is, but I certainly do think it ought to be introduced. You'll notice that it grows in a rather rocky habitat which I think drys out and gets very hot in the middle of summer.

AL FORDHAM: Mr. James Wells also has some slides he would like to show us.

JIM WELLS: We've been working with the deciduous azaleas for some time and I've been importing them from New Zealand. I took some seed from one called 'Williams' and this plant appeared among them. I rather like the looks of it and toyed with the idea of calling it 'Peachy Keen'. It roots readily. I do have a few plants but I primarily brought it along just to show and see what other people think of it. If you think it has merit we'll propagate them this year and any one who wants it can have some.

AL FORDHAM: That concludes the session on the plant introductions and I thank all of you who have brought slides to show.

CHARLEY HESS: I want to take this opportunity to thank Al Fordham for doing an excellent job of handling the plant introduction section of the program again this year and also to thank Tom Pinney for the job he did this afternoon in moderating the sessions. This concludes this afternoon's program and we will meet again at 7:30 for the Question Box Session.