Introduction
‘Jon Jon’ magnolia (Magnolia ‘Jon Jon’) is a large-flowered, hybrid, deciduous magnolia that flowers profusely in late spring, about 2 weeks after most saucer magnolias (Magnolia × soulangeana selections) but before foliage emerges. This later blooming period usually allows ‘Jon Jon’ to miss spring freezes that often damage saucer and other spring-flowering magnolias.

Plant Characteristics
A long-term evaluation of ‘Jon Jon’ magnolia in the southeastern United States found ‘Jon Jon’ magnolia grows as a vigorous, deciduous tree in an upright-rounded form (Figure 1) (Blythe et al. 2010; Knox et al. 2011). After 9 years of growth in northern Florida, the height of three ‘Jon Jon’ plants ranged from 12 to 18 feet. Mature height is expected to be about 30 feet.

‘Jon Jon’ magnolia is cold hardy in USDA hardiness zones 6b–9a. However, ‘Jon Jon’ magnolia is not recommended for zone 9a (Central Florida) and south because of poor plant growth and flowering (Knox et al. 2011).

‘Jon Jon’ grows best in full sun or partial shade and is adapted to all but wet soils. Although drought tolerant once established, it grows best in moist, well-drained soils.

Flower and Leaf Characteristics
Large, fuzzy flower buds develop into goblet-shaped flowers the first day, with flowers gradually opening wider on subsequent days (Figures 2 and 3). Flowers are white to creamy white with a basal purple blush. Flowers are large with diameters up to 12 inches. Individual petal-like tepals are creamy white with a deep reddish-purple blush at the...
base and a length of 5.5–6.0 inches. Leaves are 6–8 inches long and medium green, sometimes turning yellow before falling in autumn.

Plants flower as early as 3 years after planting (Knox et al. 2011). Flowering usually occurs about 2 weeks later than saucer magnolia. Peak bloom ranges from late February and early March in zone 8b to late March and early April in zones 6b and 7a. Flowering lasts from about 2 weeks (zone 6b) to 5 weeks (zone 8b, North Florida), depending on weather. ‘Jon Jon’ usually flowers late enough to avoid freeze damage.

**Commercial Propagation**

‘Jon Jon’ magnolia may be rooted from softwood cuttings taken as soon as new spring growth reaches a length of about 6 inches (Knox 2001). Although timing of cutting collection is more important than rooting hormone concentration, a 5-second quick dip in rooting hormone of 3:1 K-IBA:K-NAA has been used successfully at rates ranging from 5,000:1,500 to 15,000:4,500 ppm. IBA in talc at concentrations of 3,000–16,000 ppm also successfully rooted 80% of cuttings.

**References**


