Vaughn, Curator of the Mauritius Herbarium of the Sugar Research Institute in Reduit, Mauritius, another island in the Indian Ocean:

With regard to the Coco-de-mer of the Seychelles, an excellent monograph of this plant was published in La Revue Agricole de l'Ile Maurice, Vol. 26 (1947). About the edibility of the fruit the author has this to say:

“. . . a fruit which is 10-12 months old has attained its maximum size and at this stage is frequently eaten. This jelly-like tissue is much appreciated throughout the Seychelles. It is odourless, practically tasteless, save sometimes for a slight nutty flavour, generally colourless except for fruits collected from one palm in the Anse Marie Louise reserve which produces a pink jelly. From this stage onwards, the fibrous mesocarp becomes thin and dry, the soft brown endocarp becomes hard, horny and black, whilst the soft jelly-like endosperm gradually sets to a very hard tissue resembling ivory.”

Many other palm trees bear fruits that are nuts in their immature stages and their kernels are eaten by people, although when ripe they have lost their attraction as food and are no longer nuts. For example, in the Philippines the Department of Agriculture at Manila reports that the soft kernels of immature fruits of the following five palms are boiled with sugar and made into desserts: Corypha elata (common name Buri) one of 8 species in southeast Asia on all of which the huge flower cluster at the top terminates the life of the plant, sometimes after 100 years; Arenga pinnata (common name Kaong) one of 11 species in Indomalasia; Livistona rotundifolia (common name Anahau) and L. saribas (common name Tara) among 30 species in Indomalasia, and Nypa fruticans (common name Sasa) a monotypic characteristic plant of swampy, muddy places in brackish or salt water from Asia to Australia. These are nuts in just one part of the world; all told there are 2500 kinds of palms in 217 genera. Who knows how many of them are attractive to hungry people?

EXOTIC EVERGREEN MAGNOLIAS IN FLORIDA

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For years, horticulturists have considered the Magnolias to be a group of evergreen and deciduous trees and large shrubs found in the wild in the temperate regions of Asia and North America. This concept is sound only if it excludes those Magnolias not yet introduced into gardens. Of the eighty species, more or less, of Magnolias accepted at present as valid, considerably more than half occur within the tropics. Thus, it is not surprising that an erroneous view of the Magnolias should have developed. Until near the end of the nineteenth century only a few Magnolias had been collected from the tropics, and these so poorly known as to raise doubts as to whether they might not in fact belong to the more tropical Magnoliaceous genera, Michelia, Manglietia or Talasuma. It is a little more surprising that the idea of Magnolias as essentially extra-tropical should have persisted so long. As late as 1946 it was possible for Menninger and Sturrock (2) to write in “Shade and Ornamental Trees for South Florida and Cuba” that “. . . true Magnolias are not satisfactory in southern Florida or Cuba.” Yet one species of Magnolia had been described from Cuba since 1899, two others from Puerto Rico, and four from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In this hemisphere our native Magnolia grandiflora is a northern outlier of a group of evergreen Magnolias numbering at least nineteen species that grow not only on the largest islands of the Caribbean but also occur from Mexico southward through Central America and debouch onto the South American continent in Venezuela. Of this entire group two species only, or three if Magnolia grandiflora is included, have been brought into cultivation.

In Asia two other groups of evergreen Magnolias, numbering between them more than twenty species, grow from the region once called Indo-China down through the Malaysian peninsula and onto the Indonesian islands of Java, Sumatra and Borneo. Of these also only two are in cultivation, one of them, Magnolia Delavayi, like Magnolia

The genus Magnolia has been divided by Mr. J. E. Dandy of the British Museum into eleven sections. Of these, seven are wholly Asiatic, two wholly American and two mixed. Five of the sections are evergreen and six deciduous. The tropical American Magnolias, with a single exception, and M. grandiflora belong to section Theodendron, a wholly American, evergreen section. M. coco and M. Delavayi are in section Gwillimia, a wholly Asiatic, evergreen section. The other tropical Asiatic, evergreen section, Mainogla, which contains species with the southern-most Asiatic distribution has no members in cultivation.
Magnolia macrophylla, both of them being large-leaved trees, but of moderate overall size. The length and six and a half inches in breadth, the Magnolia Delavayi is somewhat reminiscent of our native flora, being smaller and generally lasting only a single day. In its native habitat M. Delavayi is a tree of high mountain slopes, occurring at elevations from 4,800 to 7,500 feet. My own experience has not led me to be overly optimistic about the performance of such half-hardy plants from the high mountains of Asia in our low and humid Florida climate. My own plant came from Oregon, and has been planted in the open ground only a year. As a year is far too short a time for a Magnolia to become properly established, final judgment as to the merits of this species in Florida must be reserved.

It is a little paradoxical that one of the most recently discovered and described species of Magnolia, Magnolia Sharpii Miranda, from Chiapas in Mexico, should be one of only two tropical American Magnolias in cultivation. Magnolia Sharpii was described in 1955 by Faustino Miranda of the University of Mexico, named in honor of Aaron J. Sharp, at that time head of the Department of Botany at the University of Tennessee. The plant had been discovered in 1953 and the type specimens collected in March of 1955 by Thomas MacDougall from a cultivated tree in San Cristobal Las Casas, Chiapas. In its native habitat along the Eastern Escarpment of Mexico in Chiapas the tree grows at altitudes of about 6,000 feet in evergreen forest associated with species of Quercus, Persea, Acer and Podocarpus. Several attempts were made to introduce M. Sharpii in the 1960s involving among others Frank B. Gal- yon, Jr. of Tennessee, Joseph C. McDaniel of the University of Illinois, Elizabeth McClintock at the Strybing Arboretum and William Kosar at the U.S. National Arboretum. It was reported in 1966 that seed collected by MacDougall had germinated in California. My own plant came from McDaniel, grafted on M. grandiflora rootstock. It has been planted out now one full year, withstood the relatively mild winter of 1970-71 without protection, and has grown vigorously the past summer. It is a most attractive plant in foliage, and if it can be permanently established in Florida will be a fine addition to the ornamentals grown here.

The only other of the tropical American Magnolias in cultivation is Magnolia guatemalensis Donn. Sm. from Guatemala. It was introduced into this country in the early 1960s by Joseph C. McDaniel, Professor in the Department of Horticulture of the University of Illinois at Urbana, who sent scion material to the U.S. National Arboretum. The plant was propagated there and has since been distributed by the Arboretum. My plant came from McDaniel. It is a beautiful Mag-
nolia with foliage of a glaucous blue-green hue. In the wild it is apparently a tree of low places, being described as abundant in the great swamp east of Tactic, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. It reaches a height of fifty feet when mature, the flowers about six inches in diameter with red outer sepals and white inner ones. The plant in my garden has been in the ground a full year, planted near M. Sharpii, surviving the past winter without protection, and growing well this summer. If it can be permanently established it will be an outstanding ornamental tree.

I cannot close this rather rambling discourse without mentioning once more the other Magnolias of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean that still await introduction and trial, two of them, Magnolia portoricensis and Magnolia splendens, figured in Little and Wadsworth's “Common Trees of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands” as near to us as Puerto Rico. All of the Magnolias are splendid aristocrats of the garden. They lend beauty, grace and dignity to every scene wherever they are planted. The same is true of these tropical American Magnolias, and they are worthy of every effort to bring them into our gardens.

**PERFORMANCE OF MODERN, NAMED DAYLILIES IN SOUTH FLORIDA**

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Abstract. Many gardeners hold that modern, rainbow-hued Hemerocallis hybrids will not succeed in South Florida, although older, unnamed yellow and orange varieties are widely planted there.

Over a period of six years at least one Miami gardener has grown a large variety of new, named daylilies of the several types. The performance of two fairly large plantings of modern, primarily evergreen varieties of Hemerocallis has been observed throughout the unusually warm fall and winter of 1971-72 and results noted. Although a large scale experiment has not been conducted, results indicate that varieties which have performed well previously and through 1972 hold real promise for South Florida gardeners. Desirable, tested varieties that seem well adapted to South Florida's soil and climate will be listed.

For the Hemerocallis fan moving to South Florida, it is a distinct shock to see the daylilies commonly grown here, or to read in local publications that daylilies come in “yellow and orange.” It is almost as if time had stood still and recent advances in daylily breeding had bypassed the area. Almost certainly, there is a local disillusion with trying to grow those new varieties advertised in glowing color in national magazines and nursery catalogs. Negative comments by those who have tried, and failed, are often overheard. This is an unfortunate and mistaken conclusion. Beautiful new daylilies covering the entire range of types and colors can and do thrive in South Florida. They compare in every way with those nationally advertised except one: they are evergreen varieties.

The evergreen character is traced back to the daylily's origin in the Orient and the several species of daylilies whose hybridizing resulted in today's flowers. One of these species, Hemerocallis aurantiaca Baker (1), was evergreen and transmitted the evergreen behavior to its descendants in greater or lesser degree. For cultural purposes, daylilies are classified in three groups:

1. Dormant, or deciduous, with foliage dying back to the ground in winter. These do well in cold winter areas and as a rule of thumb should not be planted in South Florida.
2. Evergreen, with foliage staying green rather than dying down in winter. These, in general, do best in mild winter areas.
3. Semi-evergreen, or semi-dormant, covering the wide range of behavior in between and overlapping areas with the first two categories.

Most nationwide advertising is done by Midwest or Far West growers, and the primary type advertised is the dormant daylily, although seldom so noted. These have a chilling requirement that is not met in South Florida, and they promise disappointment if planted here. Standard behavior for dormants in this area is first year bloom, if any, and thereafter little or no bloom with a yearly loss of vigor until the plant disappears. Semi-ever-