

Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel'

pink Lobner magnolia



Magnolia x loebneri 'Leonard Messel' (Pink Lobner magnolia) was created in 1950 as a coincidental cross between *Magnolia kobus* and *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea' at Nymans Garden in Sussex, England. The selection was marketed by James Comber, the manager at Nymans Garden. Pink Lobner magnolia – also referred to as the 'Leonard Messel' tulip tree – is a slow-growing shrub to a small tree no larger than 5 metres tall with an upright, egg-shaped crown with fine branches at an early age. At an older age, overhanging side branches form a semi-open, vase-shaped crown about 6 metres wide.

In mid-April, *Magnolia x loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' abundantly blooms bell-shaped, fragrant soft pink flowers that turn flat and star-shaped later on. Though the blooms fall soon, the flowers are rarely damaged by frost. After blooming, the smooth-edged, obovate leaves bud a glossy green, staying green in summer and turning yellow in autumn. *Magnolia x loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' rarely bears fruit, but the fruits that do appear are red and striking.

The Pink Lobner magnolia does not like wind and favours a sheltered, sunny environment. The cultivar thrives best in moist, humous, permeable and slightly acidic soil, though the tree adapts quite easily and also grows in slightly lime-rich soils. *Magnolia x loebneri* 'Leonard Messel' is very suitable for use in (wide) streets, avenues, large and small gardens. But the abundantly blooming tree also shines in parks and central reservations, making it a true harbinger of spring when used as a multi-stem tree, solitary tree or in groups.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella | **Topiary:** pleached

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped, vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 3 - 5 m | **Width:** 3 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: star-shaped, striking, stuffed, big, scented | **Flower colour:** white-pink, pale pink | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, obovate, polished | **Autumn colour:** yellow, green | **Fruits:** striking | **Fruit colour:** red | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** bare, pendulous | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots