



# Magnolia 'Spectrum'

## Spectrum hybrid magnolia



*Magnolia* 'Spectrum' (Spectrum hybrid magnolia) was marketed by the National Arboretum in Washington D.C., United States in 1963, by crossing *Magnolia liliiflora* 'Nigra' and *Magnolia sprengeri* 'Diva'. The same hybrid also produced *Magnolia* 'Galaxy'. Spectrum hybrid magnolia – commonly referred to as tulip tree 'Spectrum' – has a wide growth with a continuous rachis. It is thus also a tree-forming magnolia up to 8 metres tall, with an upright crown in its youth and an oval crown up to 6 metres wide later on.

At a young age, Spectrum hybrid magnolia abundantly blooms large, upright, tulip-shaped flowers. They have striking colours: violet-red outside and light pink with dark veins inside. The flowers are rarely damaged by frost. The 'Spectrum' has somewhat lighter and larger flowers than the 'Galaxy' selection. The obovate, entire leaves bud bronze-green, turn green in summer and yellow-brown to dark yellow in autumn. *Magnolia* 'Spectrum' has smooth, grey bark and brown to red-brown twigs. The tree rarely bears fruit.

Spectrum hybrid magnolia is perfect for planting in parks and large and small gardens. But the cultivar can also be used in more urban locations, like in semi-paved areas or in central reservations of (narrow) streets and avenues, because the Spectrum is also a suitable standard tree as it forms a good trunk. The selection does not like wind and favours a sheltered, sunny environment in moist, nutrient-rich soil, though it can also tolerate relatively poor soil. The 'Spectrum' will tolerate a warmer environment better than the 'Galaxy' cultivar. *Magnolia* 'Spectrum' has an elaborate, deep and fleshy root system. Therefore, plant the tree early in autumn or late in spring for faster root recovery.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement:** none, open

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide oval | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 6 - 8 m | **Width:** 4 - 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:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral (5.2 - 7.8) | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** striking, standing, singular, big, weakly scented | **Flower colour:** pale pink, red-violet, violet | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, obovate, ovoid, big, polished | **Autumn colour:** yellow-brown, dark yellow | **Fruits:** striking, rarely fruits | **Fruit colour:** pink | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** brown, red-brown | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots