



Flowers blooming

Planting Tips:

The sweetbay magnolia needs full sun to part shade and moist to wet soil. Plant from seeds collected in the summer.

Habitat:

The sweetbay magnolia occurs in a variety of swampy areas and moist, shaded areas, such as wet pinelands.

Visitor Education Center (VEC)

About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



Sweetbay magnolia flower

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA

(Magnolia virginiana)

**NMFH Visitor
Education Center**

Phone: (662) 563-8068

Web: www.mdwfp.com

Address: P.O. Box 100, 457
CR 36, Enid, MS 38927



Berries

Description/Season:

This shrub/tree is a semi-evergreen. Multi-trunked and upright, the sweetbay magnolia has light gray bark. This bark is smooth and mottled in appearance. Seeds, which are bright red and elongated, appear in cone-shaped clusters. Leaves are glossy green on top and bluish white underneath. Flowers are creamy white.

Flowers bloom in late spring to early summer. Berries emerge in the summer. Seeds are collected from the berries.

Size:

This plant reaches heights of 12 – 20 feet but can grow to 60 feet. Leaves reach widths of 1 – 2 ½ inches and lengths of 3 – 6 inches. Flowers measure 4 – 6 inches across. Seed clusters are 2 inches long on average.

Other Names:

*Swampbay, Sweet Magnolia,
Beaver Tree*



Pod



Berry clusters on tree

Interesting Facts:

Seeds attract birds and squirrels. Flowers are fragrant, and foliage has a spicy odor. Fruit will have a citrus smell when removing the seed from the fruit/pulp. In the later part of the seventeenth century, this tree made its way to Europe as an addition to gardens. Early American colonists used the sweetbay roots to capture beavers. As a result, the tree acquired the nickname “beaver tree.”



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.J.); property of MDWFP.

