Magnolia collection

This is part of the collection of magnolias in the Amenity area funded by the Brian Mason Trust in part and the early part of the collection from the Works Committee to replace the magnolias lost from the old Formal Garden when the Commerce Building was built. There are approximately one hundred and thirty magnolias including Michelia, Manglietta, Magnolia and Liriodendron have been planted and labelled in this area. Michelia and Manglietta are now reclassified as Magnolia. Because of the size and complexity of this group, most of these will be dealt with at a later date. Most were planted in the early 1990’s. At this stage I will include only some of the magnolias on campus.

Magnolia 'Serene' affected by Tordon Gold in summer of 2007-8

Partial view of the Magnolia collection in the Amenity area in the late 1990’s
Magnolia cylindrica

This species not only has good flowering, reasonable autumn foliage but also very attractive fruits in late summer. This is a good small tree for gardens.

Fruit is seen in late summer. Technically the botanical fruits of magnolia are an aggregation of follicles.
*Magnolia doltsopa* ‘Silver Cloud’  (syn. *Michelia*)

This example is in the Amenity area. It is probably more correctly listed as *Magnolia doltsopa* now. This is an evergreen tree that produced lots of highly fragrant flowers in mid spring. Occasionally flowers have been frosted at Lincoln, but in most years the display is good.

![rounded form of tree in Amenity area](image1)

large simple, alternately arranged leaves and creamy white flowers, note the bronze coloured perules that protect the flowers in winter.
Magnolia ‘Lanarth’ (syn. Magnolia campbellii subsp. mollicomata ‘Lanarth’)

This tree was planted by the Grounds Department in 1998. It is planted very close to the Kentucky coffee bean tree and just to the south west of the pergola in the Formal Garden. It can be viewed as you walk south from the library toward the western end of the Commerce Building. This tree is very upright, large leafed, fast growing deciduous tree with beautiful flowers in late August and September. The flowers are spectacularly large and in dark red purple shades. References suggest that this form introduced by the plant collector Forrest from N.W. Yunnan is very close to Magnolia campbellii subsp. mollicomata. There is another example of this cultivar in the Magnolia collection at the far end of Farm Road. Like most magnolias, this tree grows best in good moisture retentive soils, with some shelter from prevailing wind. Before the Commerce Building was built, this area had the highest concentration of magnolias on campus, so it is appropriate that this particular tree, along with some other more recent plantings of magnolia (M. x soulangeana ‘Picture’ planted 1996 midway north Commerce Building and M. ‘Elizabeth’ near the winter sweet at the western end – N. of Commerce) go back into this area. Other of the original magnolias that survived in this area are M. stellata, M. liliiflora, M. grandiflora , M. x raffillii ‘Charles Raffill”and M. x soulangeana ‘Norbertii’. 
Magnolia grandiflora  (Bull Bay magnolia)

This is commonly grown evergreen species of Magnolia. There are a number of cultivars that vary in size and shape with varying sized flowers. Generally most flower from early summer until mid autumn or later. Most flowers are strongly lemon scented. There are some newer and longer flowering hybrids between this and other species. ‘Freeman’ is a good example being a smaller tree with a much longer flowering period.

example in the Amenity area

typical flower of *M. grandiflora* notice all of the stamens that have fallen and the remaining carpels

fruiting “cone” is an aggregation of follicles, there are many cultivars of this species and at least one interspecific hybrid with this as one of the parents.
Magnolia liliiflora ‘Nigra’ (Mu-lan)

*Magnolia liliiflora* ‘Nigra’ below is seen growing in a border in the old formal garden to the north of the Commerce building. This is a large deciduous shrub that flowers in mid spring on bare branches, it also tends to have a second and shorter flowering period in late summer. This species has been the parent of many hybrids and cultivars including some of the New Zealand raised cultivars.

Mu-lan in the foreground of a garden north of the Commerce Building
Magnolia macrophylla  (large leafed cucumber tree, great leaved macrophylla, umbrella tree)

This tree is growing in the Amenity area toward the western side. There was another tree of this species planted by the Grounds department in the border opposite the north western end of the west wing of Hudson Hall. The tree is easily identified by its very large leaves and flowering that occurs about late spring to early summer. It has individual flowers like large white pudding plates. The tree is deciduous, but has only average autumn colour. It needs to be grown in an area sheltered from the wind for best effect. It grows to a medium sized tree with a rounded crown.
Magnolia x raffillii ‘Charles Raffill’

This is a hybrid between Magnolia campbellii subsp campbellii and M. campbellii ssp. mollicomata. This particular tree is at the entrance to the old formal garden from the round border at the eastern end of the library and to the north of the Commerce Building. As with most Asiatic magnolias this tree produces large and beautifully formed flowers at the end of each branch. Large flowers appear on the tree about late August to mid September before any leaves appear. The flowers are white flushed purple, pink shades and lasts for about three to four weeks. After flowering is over large simple leaves develop and remain until autumn providing some additional benefit from autumn colour. Flowers are initiated during the summer and can be seen by January as soft hairy buds terminating the stems. These contain the next seasons’ flowers and gradually increase in size on bare branches over the winter. The large soft hairy buds can then be seen developing at the ends of the branches as a feature in their own right. Lincoln University has the largest collection of magnolias in the South Island and one of the largest collections in New Zealand, the establishment of the collection was supported by the Brian Mason trust and can be seen at the entrance to the Horticultural Research area at the western end of Farm Road.
**Magnolia x soulangeana ‘Norbertii’**.

This is a small tree seen to the north west of the Lodge. This is a deciduous tree that flowers on bare wood in mid spring.
Magnolia x soulangeana 'Picture'

This small deciduous tree is growing in a border to the north of the Commerce Building. It flowers in mid spring on bare branches, followed closely by new leaves.

late flower with simple, alternately arranged leaves
Malus ‘Gorgeous’ (crab apple)

This small deciduous tree is in the border between the Lodge and Hilgendorf wing. The tree is at least forty years old and was possibly planted in the 1960’s. This is a New Zealand raised cultivar by Mr Hayward Wright between Malus sieboldii and M. halliana. (Harrison, 1960). Like all apple trees the leaves are simple and alternately arranged. This tree clearly suffers from thrips damage, but other problems associated with growing apples were not obvious. This tree appears to be around 6m in height and spread. Its main feature is the red fruit seen from mid summer onward, held well into the winter. There are a number of other crab apples planted in the 1980’s, but some time is needed to sort out what they are. A number of these are along the border between the north of Hudson Hall and Ellesmere Junction Road.
*Malus trilobata*

This is an upright growing small deciduous tree. It has simple three lobed, alternately arranged leaves that superficially look like those of some maples. This tree has good autumn foliage qualities. White apple like flowers are produced in mid spring, occasionally small pear like fruits have been noticed, these will become more obvious as the tree ages.

![Tree in the Amenity area near the hedge collection](image1)

![Alternately arranged simple leaves](image2)
**Maytenus boaria**  (Chilean mayten tree)

There are a number of evergreen Chilean mayten trees on campus, some tend to have a strong tendency to sucker. Examples of suckering trees can be seen to the southwest of Forbes where there is now a small forest of these trees. Other examples are in the Rose garden and in the Amenity area. Overall the tree has the appearance of a weeping willow, branching low from the base with somewhat pendulous branch tips.

A tree with good form and no obvious suckering - north east corner of Orchard carpark

![Simple, alternately arranged leaves](image-url)
Melicytus chathamicus (syn. Hymenanthera chathamica)

This is a multi branched evergreen New Zealand native shrub or small tree that grows to about 3-5m or so in height. The leaves are simple, alternately arranged and bluntly serrated. They are a dull glossy grey-green colour. Flowers are small, white and purple in spring, usually in large numbers.

This specimen is in the New Zealand native plants collection at the Amenity area.
Melicytus lanceolatus  (mahoewao kai-weta)

This evergreen New Zealand native shrub or small tree eventually growing to about 5m is located near the eastern side of the overhead walkway of the Natural Resources Engineering Building.

north side of NRE Building

simple, alternate, bluntly serrate leaves
Melicytus ramiflorus (mahoe, whiteywood)

There are two examples of this species on campus that I am aware of. Neither of them are doing particularly well. The oldest is in the Amenity area toward the south east corner of the New Zealand native collection. This species continually gets cut back by the frosts, but always comes away again. The second example is on the south facing block wall of the nursery. This example has grown better, although has not been able to grow to more than a couple of metres in height. This is normally a fast growing evergreen tree to around 10m or so.

mahoe on the south side of the nursery wall on Farm Road. The distorted leaves are due to herbicide damage.
Metasequoia glyptostroboides  (dawn redwood of China)

This is a deciduous conifer that was unknown other than by fossil evidence until the early 1940’s when it was discovered growing in China. After the second World War seed of this species went to the Arnold Arboretum in the USA and was distributed to interested countries from about 1948. There is a large specimen outside the Cunningham House in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens which was planted very early on possibly the 1950’s and there is a slightly smaller specimen in the Betula Border almost opposite the gates near the eastern side of Hudson Hall. Next to it is a smaller swamp cypress. Both trees being deciduous could be mistaken for being dead in the winter. I suspect these trees were planted sometime in late 1950’s or early 1960’s.
Morus alba  (white mulberry)

This is a young tree at the eastern entrance to the Commerce Building, it replaces a gnarly old black mulberry (*Morus nigra*) which for many years was known for its delicious red-black fruit in late summer which invariably stained the shirts of many who tried the fruit. In the mid 1990’s the old black mulberry was finally removed. Mulberries are best known for their association with silk worms, the white mulberry is the preferred species for this purpose. The leaves are alternate, simple and petiolate with sparsely crenate to serrate lobes, leaves are glossy green, becoming darker with age. The leaves are up to 17cm long by about 11cm across. The white mulberry is a relatively fast growing upright to rounded topped tree, it flowers in early October and produces a multiple fruit from an inflorescence that is a pinkish-white colour in late summer. The fruit resembles an elongated raspberry. I have not yet tried the fruit from this tree, but it is reputedly not as good to eat as that of the black mulberry. White mulberry trees are native to China and should grow to about 8m in height and spread.