

[54] MAGNOLIA TREE NAMED BUTTERFLIES
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[56] References Cited
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
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[57] ABSTRACT
A magnolia tree named Butterflies particularly charac-
terized by its deep rich yellow flower color, thick dis-
play of cup-shaped flowers which are carried upright
and are non-fading, start of vegetative growth only
after tepals have fallen, pyramidal growing habit with
single trunk and symmetrical branches, abundant dark
green foliage, and hardiness to climate conditions in
zones 5–9.

2 Drawing Sheets

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The present invention comprises a new and distinct
cultivar of magnolia tree, a hybrid of *M. acuminata* and
M. denudata, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar
name Butterflies.
The new cultivar is the result of a breeding program
carried out co-inventor Philip J. Savage in Bloomfield
Hills, Mich. With the aim of producing a superior orna-
mental magnolia cultivar, many different clones of *M.*
acuminata were hand pollinated with pollen from sev-
eral clones of *M. denudata*. A great many seedlings
were grown to flowering age and the best individual of
all the crosses was selected for its deep yellow flower
color which does not fade, late vegetative growth,
pleasing compact pyramidal form bearing attractive
dark green foliage, and its unusual hardiness to cold and
heat.
Asexual reproduction by co-inventor Roy G. Klehm
in South Barrington, Ill. in the forms of softwood cut-
tings, chip budding and side grafting has demonstrated
that the combination of characteristics as herein dis-
closed for the new cultivar are firmly fixed and retained
through successive generations of asexual reproduction.
Butterflies has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary
significantly with variations in environment such as
temperature, light intensity and day length. The follow-
ing observations, measurements and comparisons de-
scribe trees grown in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois
under conditions which approximate those generally
used in commercial practice.
The following traits have been repeatedly observed
and are determined to be basic characteristics of Butter-
flies which in combination distinguish this magnolia tree
as a new and distinct cultivar:
1. The flowers display a deeper, richer and purer
yellow color than any other cultivar known to date.
2. Flowers are carried upright, like a Darwin tulip,
and are thickly disposed throughout the tree.
3. Leaf buds do not open, or vegetative growth start,
until tepals, without fading, have fallen.
4. Flowers carry from ten to sixteen tepals and main-
tain an attractive cup shape throughout.
5. The tree develops a neat pyramidal habit, with a
straight, single trunk and symmetrical branches.

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6. Foliage is generous and dark green, with the under-
side of the leaves being a few shades lighter.
7. The bark of the trunk and large branches is a me-
dium gray, with twigs darker and browner.
8. Butterflies is hardy from U.S. Department of Agri-
cultural (U.S.D.A.) zone 5 to zone 9, and all zones
between, surviving –29° F.
Of the many commercial magnolia trees known to the
inventor, the most similar in comparison to Butterflies is
the magnolia hybrid Elizabeth. In comparison to
Elizabeth, Butterflies has flowers of a deeper yellow
color, with a larger number of petals, and vegetative
buds that do not open until the non-fading flowers have
matured and shattered cleanly off the twigs.
The accompanying color photographic drawings
show typical characteristics of Butterflies, with colors
being as true as possible with illustrations of this type.
Sheet 1 comprises a view of a typical tree of Butter-
flies in bloom.
Sheet 2 comprises a closeup of a single flower of
Butterflies.
In the following description, color references are
made to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart
(R.H.S.). The color values were determined between
12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. on May 8, 1988 under sunny
conditions at 2150 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield
Hills, Mich.
Origin: Magnolia hybrid Butterflies is the best of twenty
seedlings from hand pollination of.
Parentage:
Seed parent.—*M. acuminata* (north Ohio origin).
Pollen parent.—A *M. denudata* seedling with ex-
ceptionally rich, cream-colored buds and flow-
ers (Japanese origin).
Classification:
Botanical.—Both parents are species of sub-genus
Yulania.
Commercial.—Magnolia hybrid Butterflies.
Propagation: Softwood cuttings and “chip” budding.
Trunk: 21 cm. diameter at one meter above root crown.
Branches: Symmetrical, spreading to 3.5 m. at 14 years
old.
Height: 5 m. at 14 years from seed.

Plant 7,456

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Growth habit: Symmetrical, oval pyramid, single leader.
 Fruit bearing habit: Rarely sets open-pollinated seed.
 Spreading habit: 3.5 m. at 1 m. above root crown.
 Cold hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zone 5; bloomed after -29° in previous winter.
 Foliage:
Size of leaf.—15 cm. \times 10 cm.
Shape of leaf.—Oblong/elliptic; cuneate base; cuspidate tip.
Margin.—Entire.
Texture.—Firm and flat, but not coriaceous.
Color.—Upper surface: Green 137A. Lower surface: Green 137B.
Petiole.—1.5 cm. long, strong.
Hair.—Upper surface: Nearly glabrous. Lower surface: Sparse silver hairs on veins.
 Inflorescence:
Size.—7 cm. across top of "cup".
Shape.—Upright "tulip"; tepals open to 45° from vertical.

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Buds.—Thickly pubescent, with glossy, silver hairs.
Blooming habit.—Precocious, all flowers opening at once.
Floriferousness.—Flowers abundant over entire tree.
Petals.—Number: Ten to sixteen. Shape: Broadly spoon shaped; overlapping. Length: Seven to eight cm. Width: Two and one half to four cm. Color: Outer surface, yellow 3B. Inner surface, yellow 3C. Texture: Smooth, durable, heavy substance. Fragrance: Light scent of lemon oil. Retention: Seven to nine days; shatter cleanly. Reproductive parts: Gynoecium small, light green, stamens and anthers raspberry pink.
Fruit.—Seldom produced by insect pollination; reddish-green when mature (carpophore).
Seed.—Outer testa orange red; inner coat shiny black with small cusp. Similar to *M. denudata*.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of magnolia tree named Butterflies, as illustrated and described.

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