



Book Reviews (Margaret Hodgson)

*Magnolias, A Gardener's Guide* by Jim Gardiner

329 pages, 153 colour photographic plates, 6 black and white figures. Lists: Recommended Magnolias, Award-winning Magnolias, Where to See Magnolias, Where to Buy Magnolias, Societies, Bibliography, Index of *Magnolia* Names, and General Index. Hardbound, Copyright Jim Gardiner, 2000

Expanded and Enlarged Edition of Jim Gardiner's *Magnolias* (Britain – Cassell 1989 and North America – The Globe Pequot Press, 1989) Timber Press, Oregon, USA.

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Jim Gardiner is Director of Horticulture and Chief Curator for all the Royal Horticultural Society gardens in the United Kingdom. Previously he was (Chief) Curator at RHS Garden Wisley for 22 years, Curator at the Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, and held a variety of position at other botanic gardens. A highly respected plantsman in the international gardening community, Jim frequently lectures and writes for a range of horticultural publications. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture, an author of several other books, including *Magnolias: Classic Garden Plants* (in the FSRs Library), *Encyclopedia of Flowering Shrubs*, and *Magnolias In Art & Cultivation* – Jim Gardiner, Barbara Oozeerally & Stephen A. Sponberg. Gardiner is a frequent lecturer and writer on all subjects Magnolia, a skilled photographer, and President of the Magnolia Society

In the opening pages of *Magnolias, A Gardener's Guide*, the author speaks of E.H. "Chinese" Wilson who described the superb qualities of magnolias. "They have the largest flowers and largest individual leaves of any hardy group of trees. No other genus of hardy or half-hardy trees and shrubs can boast so many excellences.....". Jim Gardiner points out that magnolias can be grown in many countries around the world where they are not native and we certainly see many varieties in the Lower Mainland of BC. Each chapter follows a logical sequence of detailed information of magnolias, moving from Chapter One, The Story of the Magnolia to six following chapters covering the cultivation, magnolias in the garden, propagation, pests and diseases, *Magnolia* species, and *Magnolia* hybrids. The colour plates build on this information. The Indices at the end of the book are extremely useful. Read this book. It is in our library.