

Later Blooming Magnolia Selection May Avoid Frost Damage

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The mild January weather brought many of the local deciduous flowering magnolias into bloom. The early blooming only sets the plants up for disaster with the next hard freeze. Planting Magnolia varieties that bloom later can help to avoid frost and freeze damage. According to Dr. Gary Knox of the North Florida Research & Education Center in the Florida panhandle, here is a list of later blooming deciduous Magnolias cultivars that tend to bloom a little later than standard varieties. Some listed varieties may only be available through specialty nurseries or mail order.

Leonard Messel (Loebner Hybrid); Iolanthe (Jury Hybrid); Milky Way (Jury Hybrid); Encore (Kehr hybrid of a stellata type); Jon Jon (Grehsham Hybrid- I really push this one because of large flowers & it is being grown fairly widely these days); Athene (Jury Hybrid-absolutely fabulous, but very hard to root); Lilliputian (Kehr Hybrid, cute small flowers); Jane (Little Girls series from National Arboretum, stellata hybrid); Daybreak (Kehr Hybrid, a color breakthrough, “true” pink, not purple-pink); Marillyn (hybrid that is the reverse cross of the Little Girls).

If I can help you with any of your gardening questions, please give me a call.

