technology transfer *fact sheet*

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Magnolia virginiana
Family: Magnoliaceae

Sweetbay

The genus Magnolia contains about 80 species native to: North America [8], West Indies [8], and Asia [50]. The name magnolia is named for Pierre Magnol (1638-1715), professor of botany and medicine and director of the botanic garden at Montpellier, France. The name virginiana means “of Virginia”.

Magnolia virginiana -Arbre du Castor, Bat-tree, Bay, Bay-tree, Beaver Tree, Big Laurel, Black Lin, Bullbay, Cucumberwood, Evergreen Magnolia, Indian Bark, Laurel Magnolia, Magnolia, Magnolia de Virginie, Magnolia Virginiana, Magnolier Bleu, Magnolier des Marais, Mountain Magnolia, Quinquina Virginie, Small Magnolia, Southern Magnolia, Southern Sassafras, Southern Sweetbay, Swampbay, Swamp Laurel, Swamp Magnolia, Swamp Sassafras, Sweet Bay, Sweetbay Magnolia, Sweet Magnolia, Virginia Magnolia, Virginische Magnolia, Whitebay, White Laurel.

Distribution
North America, along the coastal plain from Long Island, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, south to Florida and west to Texas and north to Arkansas and Tennessee. Also occurs in locally in eastern Massachusetts.

The Tree
Sweetbay grows in wet, sandy soil along streams bottom lands and swamps. It is deciduous and shrubby in the northern parts of its range, but evergreen in the south. It is a slow growing and it flowers in spring. It grows in association with redbay, maples, holly and loblolly bay. It reaches heights of 80 feet, with a diameter of 1.5 feet. The gray to gray brown bark is thin, smooth and irregularly furrowed due to plates. The bark is also aromatic.

The Wood
General
The wood is soft and pale brown, with a brown, aromatic heartwood and is straight grained.

Mechanical Properties (2-inch standard)

	Specific gravity	MOE x10^6 lbf/in^2	MOR lbf/in^2	Compression		WML[a] in-lbf/in^3	Hardness lbf	Shear lbf/in^2
				Parallel lbf/in^2	Perpendicular lbf/in^2			
Green	0.42	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Dry	_	1.64	10,900	5,680	560	_	_	1,680

[a]WML = Work to maximum load.
Reference (59).

Drying and Shrinkage

	Percentage of shrinkage (green to final moisture content)		
Type of shrinkage	0% MC	6% MC	20% MC
Tangential	8.3	–	–
Radial	4.7	–	–
Volumetric	12.9	–	–

References: 0% MC (98), 6% and 20% MC (90).

Kiln Drying Schedules[a]

	Stock				
Condition	4/4, 5/4, 6/4	8/4	10/4	12/4	16/4
Standard	T10-D4	T8-D3	–	–	–

[a]References (6, 86).

Working Properties: It is easily worked and finishes well.

Durability: No information available at this time

Preservation: No information available at this time.

Uses: Lumber, veneer, furniture, boxes & containers.

Toxicity: No information available at this time.

Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)

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