



Topic: Magnolia Grandiflora Losing Cause in SW Florida

Question: We live in Bonita Springs and want to plant a 'Little Gem' Magnolia in our condo complex. A member of the landscaping committee has pointed out that this cultivar of *Magnolia grandiflora* can grow to 60 feet. I pointed out that many nursery web sites list it as only growing between 15 and 18 feet. Can this 'Little Gem' Magnolia be planted in Bonita Springs? Will this tree grow to 60 Feet because it's in zone 10? Can I plant this in an area which recently had a palm removed because of Ganoderma butt rot?

Michael, Bonita Springs

Answer: *Magnolia grandiflora* including 'Little Gem' is generally a losing cause in zone 10 which includes most of South Florida. Although a Florida native, it is not adapted to surviving in the warmer area of the peninsula. A 'Little Gem' in Bonita Springs will be lucky to survive for more than a handful of years, much less reaching 60 feet in height. In fact, it is most likely to reach 60 feet in height in colder regions such as in zones 9 and below. Trees and shrubs can be planted in wake of palms removed from the landscape due to ganoderma, a fatal palm disease.



'Little Gem' magnolia having its problem

Useful Links:

[Flowering Trees Fact Sheets](#)

[Native Plants Fact Sheets](#)

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