Magnolia kobus

An ancient tree whose lineage dates back from over 95 million years ago. This living fossil has seen the fall of dinosaurs, the first mammals appear, and even carbon changes during the prehistoric ages.

This is why its flower structure is so unique, where they don't have petals or sepals in a true from, but rather tepals, an ancient floral structure so beetles could land on them. It originally formed its flower for beetle pollination before the emergence of bees, where its carpels where resistant to beetle bites.

This evolved further with the introduction of bee species, where it would be the first to open its flowers after the winter. Now, it is greedily visited by our modern pollinators, such as numerous bee species, butterflies and other insects.

Because it evolved during the carbon changes millions of years ago, the Magnolia Kobus is one of the greatest trees for urban carbon sequestration. It can absorb and store the same quantities of carbon as a London Plane tree, with a staggering 20,000 pounds of carbon over 60 years.

The top choice for urban planting, its canopy is ascending with a compact form, making it ideal for tighter locations.

The spring flower are brilliant white that carries a subtle, fruity scent. These give way to deep, emerald green leaves that are rounded and soft. Then, come the autumn, the canopy melts into warm shades of buttery yellow and toasted browns.

When the seed pods develop late summer, its prehistoric appearance can not be denied. These deep, crimson red fruits are unusual, and a favourite for birds to eat

"Part of the Wyevale Climate Champion Tree range"