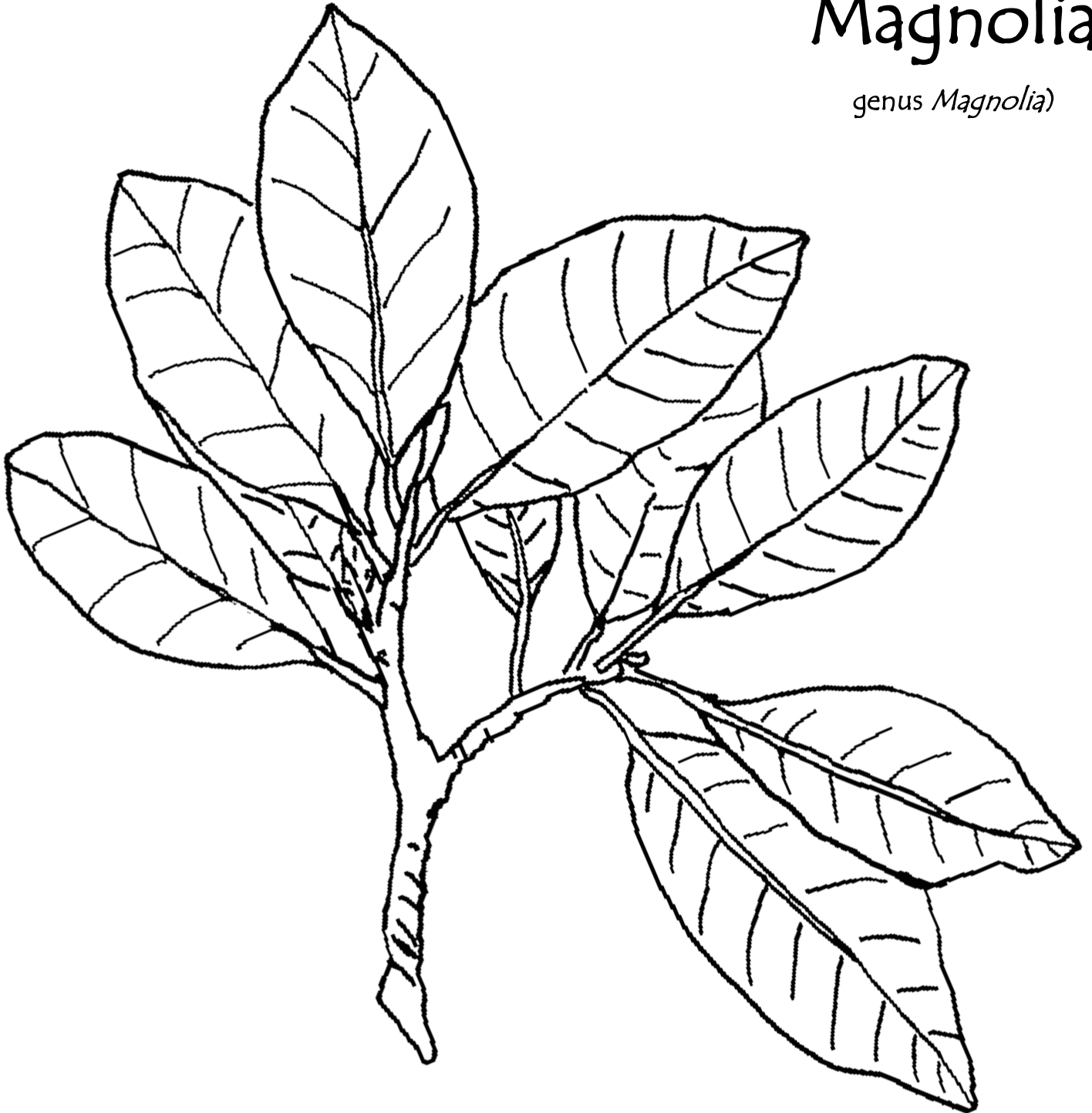


Magnolia

genus *Magnolia*)



State tree of MISSISSIPPI

Of the six native species of magnolia in Mississippi, it is the southern magnolia that is popularly considered as the state tree. Southern magnolia is also Mississippi's state flower. This beautiful large evergreen tree is native to the coastal plain region of the southeast but has been widely planted in the United States. The large distinctive leaves are stiff, dark green, shiny above, dull or covered with rusty hairs on the underside. The fragrant flowers are huge and waxy-white, produced in late spring to early summer. They are followed by cone-like fruits with red seeds in autumn. Southern magnolia tends to keep its lower branches and forms a broad tree with leaves down to ground level. The wood is occasionally used for furniture, baskets, and crates, but the tree's chief value is ornamental. Look for large rounded tree with branches usually reaching to the ground; large stiff and shiny evergreen leaves, often with a rusty felt-like coating of hairs on the underside; large white flowers up to one foot wide; cone-like fruit which extrudes hard, orange-red seeds.

Source: U.S. Forest Service