

# Umbrella Magnolia

## *Magnolia tripetala*

### Description

Umbrella magnolia is a small deciduous tree that often has several trunks and grows up to 33 feet (10 meters) tall. The leaves are alternate, untoothed on the margin, conspicuously large (to 24 inches, or 60 cm long), oval to oblong in shape, and usually clustered at the ends of the stout branchlets. The flowers, appearing in May, have large, showy, white petals that are up to 5½ inches (14 cm) long. The fruits are aggregated in a 3 to 5 inch (7-12 cm) cone-like structure, with the enclosed seeds having an orange or red outer covering.

### Distribution & Habitat

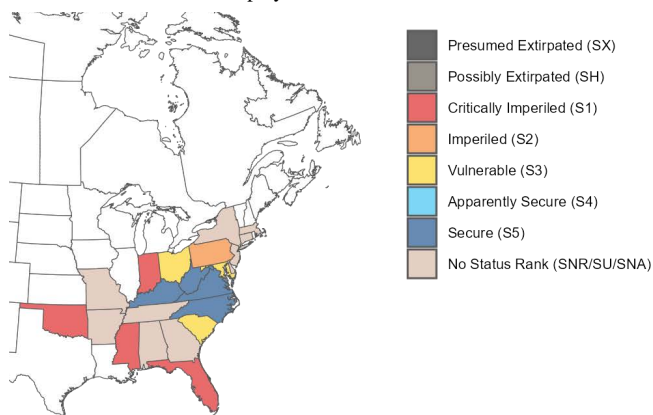
Umbrella magnolia has a range from Pennsylvania west and south into Oklahoma and the Gulf Coast states. In Pennsylvania, it reaches a northern border of its natural range, and has been documented in several southern counties. It grows on rich wooded slopes, wooded streambanks, and in moist ravines. The species has also been cultivated in locations (e.g., the Philadelphia area) that are believed to be outside its natural range in the state, and has escaped from these plantings to woodlands.



Photo Source: PNHP

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers umbrella magnolia to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed. It has a PA legal rarity status of Threatened and a PABS suggested rarity status of Rare. About 25 occurrences have been documented in the state.

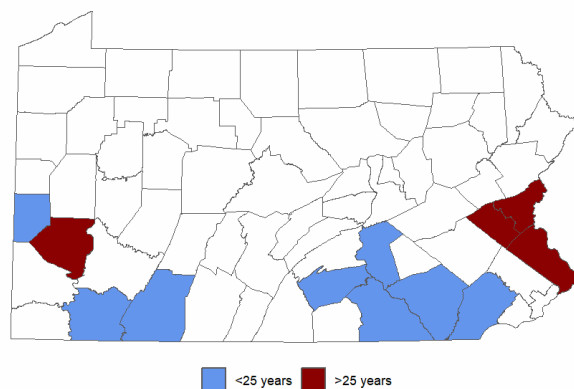
### Conservation Considerations

Maintenance of natural populations of umbrella magnolia and its habitat type will be enhanced by creating buffers around fragmented woodland habitat and controlling invasive species. Populations of umbrella magnolia that have resulted from escapes from cultivation are not considered to be of conservation significance.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S2 – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

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### References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.