



# MARWOOD HILL GARDENS

20 acres of glorious gardens near Barnstaple

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For the attention of the Business Editor, North Devon Journal

## Unique Magnolia Boosts Plant Sales at Marwood Hill Gardens

There's been nationwide interest in a special magnolia tree available for sale for the first time at Marwood Hill Gardens near Barnstaple. Sales of the Marwood Spring Magnolia have given a big boost to the plant sale business at Marwood Hill, where garden lovers can buy unusual and rare plants, most of them grown on site. The plant sales are an important source of income for the gardens which are privately owned. Spring is traditionally the busiest time of year for the business, and sales this year are booming with April's sunny weather bringing people outdoors, and a surge in visitors to Marwood Hill to admire the magnolias and camelias which are particularly good this year.

The young magnolia plants are grafts from one of the most impressive magnolias at Marwood Hill, the Marwood Spring Magnolia, which is the only one of its kind. "This magnolia is stunning," explains Property Manager, Patricia Stout. "The flowers are dark pink with a lighter pink inside, and beautiful shaped petals. This year the tree has been better than ever, absolutely glorious. We've have interest from all over the country from people keen to buy grafts of this tree. So many people wanted them that we had to set up a waiting list. Not surprisingly, all the new plants have now been sold, but we will have more available for sale in the autumn, and next spring, and anyone who wants to order one can contact us."

"The Marwood Spring Magnolia is a descendant of the wild sprengeri magnolia tree in China," says Malcolm Pharoah, Head Gardener at Marwood. "Seeds from the plant were gathered in the 1930s or 40s and brought back to the South West. In order to get an exact copy of the Marwood Spring tree we used grafts. It has taken several years for the plants to reach a size where they can be sold, and it may be another five years before they start flowering."

"We have been delighted by the interest in the young Marwood Spring magnolias," adds Patricia. "We have a very loyal customer base, and people buying plants from us know we always sell good quality, strong, healthy plants. Our staff are very knowledgeable and can give our customers plenty of help and advice. It is not always easy to find this sort of expertise when buying plants. After a great start to the season, we are thrilled to be welcoming so many visitors to the gardens which are really looking superb at the moment."

### Notes for editors:

- Pictures attached showing Malcolm Pharoah in the Marwood Hill Plant Sales area, and close up of Marwood Spring Magnolia flower.
- For more information, please call Patricia Stout, Property Manager, 01271 342528.
- Marwood Hill Gardens are located 4 miles from Barnstaple, near the village of Marwood.
- The gardens are home to 3 national collections, astilbe, tulbaghia and Japanese iris.
- Marwood Hill Gardens are privately owned and run, and open daily until the end of October.
- Press release issued by ND Media [www.ndmedia.co.uk](http://www.ndmedia.co.uk)

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