

***Magnolia x soulangeana:***  
**A desiccated leaf and fruit case**

This picture shows the beginning of the decay process to Magnolia leaves and empty aggregate fruit cases. The process eventually helps to provide nourishment for the tree.



In December, the leaf and expended aggregate fruit case were found under the tree featured in this series of pictures.

The aggregate fruit case is the visible remains of the same season's reproductive cycle. The fruitlets have dispersed leaving the follicles and receptacle as hard as the wood from the tree.

The decaying leaf is from the previous season and was found in a particularly dry area under the tree.