

Northern Catalpa

Catalpa speciosa (Family: *Bignoniaceae*)

Description: U.S. native tree. *Catalpa speciosa* is a medium-sized tree that has large, tropical-looking leaves, showy summer flowers and unique fruit capsules that resemble large bean pods.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zones 4 to 8(9).

Native Habitat: Eastern United States.

Mature Size: Height: 40' to 60', Spread: 20' to 40'.

Form (Shape): Open, irregular oval crown.

Growth Rate: Moderate to fast.

Foliage: Deciduous. Leaves are large and medium green in the summer, turning yellow or brown in the fall.

Texture: Coarse.

Flowers: Flowers are white with yellow throats and purple flecks, blooming in late May or early June. Ornamental, blooms later than many ornamental trees.

Fruit: 12" long seed pod (capsule), messy.

Light: Full sun to partial shade.

Soil: Performs well in deep, moist, and fertile soils, though has tolerance to wet, dry, or alkaline conditions.

Propagation: Seeds or cuttings.

Failure Patterns: Branches may break in wind or ice storms.

Insects and Diseases: Prone to leaf spot, powdery mildew, *Verticillium* wilt, twig blight, and root rot.

Landscape Use: Can be used in parks, as a street or lawn tree, or in locations with unfavorable soil conditions. Some find its seed pods messy and unattractive, but they can create winter interest. A valuable tree for rain gardens.

Availability: Available in some nurseries in the Midwest.