

Catalpa speciosa

Hardy Catalpa

Zone: 4b-9a

Height: 50'-70'

Width: 35'-50'

Crown: Oval

Growth Rate: Fast

Soil: Clay, loam, sand

pH: Acid, alkaline

Drainage: Occasionally wet

Breakage: Resistant

Pests: Few if any



Native to the Mississippi River valley, this is a tree with big features. Big leaves: 8" to 12" long; big orchid-like flowers: clusters up to 2' across; seed pods like giant green beans; and a big crown, perhaps 70' x 50'. This is a tree that needs room to grow. No wedging it in a parking strip or it will soon be heaving concrete. It is a huge factor in any landscape.

Catalpa will grow in pH 7 and tolerates hot, dry weather. Idaho, Colorado, are you listening? It also does well in Western Oregon, pH 5.5 and lots of moisture. Robinson Nursery offers Catalpa speciosa as whips.