Catalpa, Heartland

Catalpa speciosa 'Hiawatha 2'



Catalpa, Heartland
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Northern Catalpa, Western Catalpa, Cigar Tree

Description:

A medium sized shade tree with enormous leaves resulting in a very coarse texture, use where this is required; large clusters of showy white, orchid-like flowers in early summer and long narrow bean-pod shaped fruit in fall are very ornamental.

Ornamental Features

Catalpa, Heartland features showy panicles of fragrant white orchid-like flowers with gold throats and purple spots rising above the foliage in early summer. It has attractive forest green deciduous foliage. The enormous heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and turn chartreuse in fall. The fruits are showy brown pods displayed from mid summer to late winter. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.



Catalpa, Heartland flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Catalpa, Heartland is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. Its strikingly bold and coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced landscape composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Catalpa, Heartland is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Catalpa, Heartland will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (4): Beautiful, large clusters of showy white, orchid-like flowers in early summer and long narrow bean-pods in fall are ornamental. Blooms, leaves and pods can be blown or raked onto the lawn then mowed or bagged.