Catalpa bignonioides
(Common Catalpa)
Catalpa bignonioides is a deciduous medium size tree with white, marked with orange and purple flowers, in conical panicles. The fruit is a bean-like pod.

**Landscape Information**

**Pronunciation:** kuh-TAL-puh big-non-YOY-deez

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Origin:** Southeastern United States

**Heat Zones:** 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Hardiness Zones:** 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

**Uses:** Specimen, Shade, Street

**Size/Shape**

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Tree Shape:** oval, Spreading

**Canopy Symmetry:** Irregular

**Canopy Density:** Medium

**Canopy Texture:** Coarse

**Height at Maturity:** 8 to 15 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 10 to 15 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** 20 to 50 Years

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Plant Image
Catalpa bignonioides
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**Botanical Description**

**Foliage**
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Opposite
- **Leaf Venation:** Pinnate
- **Leaf Persistence:** Deciduous
- **Leaf Type:** Simple
- **Leaf Blade:** 20 - 30
- **Leaf Shape:** Cordate
- **Leaf Margins:** Entire
- **Leaf Scent:** No Fragrance
- **Color (growing season):** Green
- **Color (changing season):** Yellow

**Flower**
- **Flower Showiness:** True
- **Flower Size Range:** 7 - 10
- **Flower Type:** Raceme
- **Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)
- **Flower Scent:** No Fragrance
- **Flower Color:** White
- **Seasons:** Summer

**Trunk**
- **Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage
- **Number of Trunks:** Single Trunk
- **Trunk Esthetic Values:** Colored

**Fruit**
- **Fruit Type:** Capsule
- **Fruit Showiness:** True
- **Fruit Size Range:** 3 - 7
- **Fruit Colors:** Brown
- **Seasons:** Summer
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Horticulture Management

Tolerance
Frost Tolerant: Yes
Heat Tolerant: No
Drought Tolerant: No
Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements
Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand
Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline
Water Requirements: Moderate
Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management
Toxity: Yes
Invasive Potential: No
Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No
Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure
Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes
Surface Rooting: No
Life Span: More than 50
Edible Parts: None
Pests: Caterpillars
Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting, Grafting