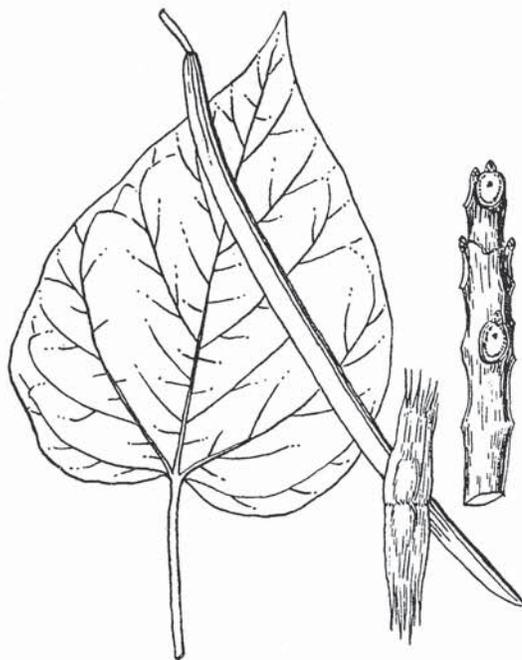


154. NORTHERN CATALPA*

Catalpa speciosa Warder ex Engelm.; hardy catalpa.

Introduced small to medium-sized tree 50 ft (15 m) high, with short trunk 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter and rounded open crown of spreading branches and coarse foliage. Twigs stout, green turning brown, becoming hairless, with large rounded raised leaf-scars in 3's. Buds in 3's, tiny, rounded, light brown, with about 6 pointed scales; no end bud.



Leaves in 3's (whorled) or sometimes 2's (opposite), with long leafstalk, *ovate, large*, 6-12 in (15-30 cm) long, 4-8 in (10-20 cm) wide, long-pointed, notched at base, *not toothed* on edges, *dull green* and hairless above, paler and soft hairy beneath, with unpleasant odor when crushed, turning blackish in autumn.

Flower clusters (panicles) upright at end of leafy twig in late spring, large, branched, 5-8 in (13-20 cm) long and wide. Flowers several to many, *large and showy*, 2-2¼ in (5-6 cm) long and wide, corolla *bell-shaped* with 5 unequal rounded fringed lobes, *white* with 2 orange stripes and purple spots inside.

Fruits *very long narrow cylindrical dark brown capsules, cigarlike* or beanlike, 8-18 in (20-46 cm) long, ½-⅝ in (13-15 mm) in diameter, thick-walled, splitting into 2 parts, maturing in autumn, remaining attached in winter. **Seeds** many, flat, light brown, with 2 papery wings rounded at ends with tuft of hairs.

Bark brownish gray, smoothish, becoming furrowed into thick flat scaly plates or ridges.

Wood gray brown with thin whitish or gray sapwood, shiny with faint odor, ring porous, coarse-textured, moderately lightweight (sp. gr. .38), moderately soft, very resistant to decay or durable. Used for fenceposts, construction, interior finish, and cabinetwork.

Planted for shelterbelts, woodlots, fenceposts, and shade through Okla. (except panhandle), escaping from cultivation in moist soil. Widely naturalized in open areas, e. half of U.S. Native apparently in Miss. valley region from sw. Ind. to ne. Ark., the original range uncertain. Zone 4.

Widely planted in farm woodlots in the Middle West many years ago. This species is hardier than southern catalpa. That closely related species has more, slightly smaller, later flowers, narrower thinner-walled capsules, and leaves with slightly shorter points.