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Joseph Zeleznik, Ph.D., Extension Forester

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Catalpa speciosa*

Family: Bignoniaceae (Catalpa)

Hardiness: Zone 4

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: 25-45'

Longevity: Short

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: White

Fruit: Long bean-like green to brown

Fall Color: Yellow

Northern Catalpa

Description

A medium- to large-sized tree native to the eastern United States, considered borderline hardy for most of North Dakota except the southeastern quarter. An attractive tree with “orchidlike” flowers that bloom in May-June. Further east, catalpa can become a very large tree, but in North Dakota it rarely exceeds 40 feet – or more commonly, less than 30 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun to partial shade.

Water: Prefers moist, well drained soils.

Soil: Adaptable to a wide variety of soils.

Comments

The northern catalpa has a difficult time with extremely hot and dry environments.

It has been widely planted in urban areas farther south as a street tree and lawn tree, and can also be effectively used in the landscape for difficult areas such as moist low spots or dry areas with poor soils.



Credits: North Dakota Tree Selector Website, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants 6th edition.

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