

Northern Catalpa

Catalpa speciosa



Description: Medium to large trees (to 60 feet tall, 2+ feet diam.) with rounded crown-grew much larger in original forest. Leaves opposite, large, heart-shaped. Bark fissured to scaly

Leaves: Opposite (in whorls of 3), formed singly on long (to 6 inches), stout stems. Blades large (to 1 foot long, 2/3 as broad), heart-shaped, pointed tip, smooth edges, somewhat leathery: dark green above, paler and hairy below. Emit strong odor when leaves are bruised

Bark: Brown to dark gray, deeply fissured or sometimes broken into thick scales.

Flowers: White, showy in large clusters; fruit a long, green, round “pod”

Fruit: Fruit long (to 1 ½ feet, ½ inch diam.) capsules; round, green then brown; split in halves at maturity to reveal several winged, hairy, buoyant seeds, each about 1 inch long, and wind- scattered long after leaves dropped

Habitat/Range: Low woods originally. Widely planted in a variety of habitats. Range, Originally in only a few counties of southwestern Indiana. Throughout the state now, due to planting