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Northern Catalpa: *Catalpa Speciosa*

- considered a perennial
- medium-sized (ranges from 40-75 feet)
- sometimes mistaken for the southern catalpa, but is larger and unlike the southern catalpa the leaves do not have an unpleasant odor

Leaves: 6-12 inches long, 4-8 inches wide and heart shaped, simple without any lobes, leaves are generally alternate, although young stems can be whorled

Flowers: 1 3/8-2 inches long, it has an uneven lower petal, spotted

- usually blooms in early summer

Fruits: 8-23 inches long, 2/3-5/8 inches in diameter, the fruits have many seeds with wings

- produced in early fall

Pests:

- catalpa sphinx caterpillar eats the leaves which can lead to defoliation, luckily extreme amounts of nectar come out and therefore attract insects that eat the sphinx caterpillar's larva which decreases defoliation
- catalpa midge causes leaf spots which can harm the buds and the seeds in the pods
- new seeds in the pod can be destroyed by the larva of gnats
- polystictus versicolor is a decay fungus that can destroy a catalpa when it is around 20 years old

Geographical Range: before European settlement it could be found in a small area of the Mississippi Valley basin, western Tennessee, north east Arkansas, and south east Mississippi as well as southern Illinois and Indiana. It can also be found in Europe and New Zealand

- often planted in the North and used as a shaded tree

Sources:

- wood is often used for fence posts, railroad ties, power line poles, interior finish, and for cheap furniture
- sometimes the trees are planted because they attract catalpa worms for fish bait

History:

- planted by European settlers for fence posts
- railroad companies made plantations of them for track ties and fuel wood
- early doctors used the seeds and seedpods to make medicines for a variety of illnesses and the bark was also ground into powder and used to make teas

Random Facts:

- the biggest northern catalpa recorded is in Indiana and is 81 feet tall and 84 feet wide
- can become weedy or invasive

Online Sources:

<http://www.gardenguides.com/taxonomy/northern-catalpa-catalpa-speciosa/>

Where is the biggest recorded northern catalpa located? A. Ohio B. Indiana C. Wisconsin D. Georgia

