

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Northern Catalpa

(Catalpa speciosa)

Get to know your tree:

The northern catalpa is a Michigan native species with large, heart-shaped leaves that may occasionally have 3 pointed lobes. Branches and leaves emerge opposite one another. Flowers are large and bell-shaped and are white, with purple or yellow markings. Fruits are very long, slender seed pods that are green when young and turn brown as they mature. Bark is furrowed and brown. The trunk, branches, and twigs are often twisted.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter catalpa provides approximately \$36.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 9 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger catalpas, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

The northern catalpa is an important species for pollinators – its flowers are visited by bees and hummingbirds. Catalpa trees are also the only host species of the catalpa sphinx moth!

The Latin species name, *speciosa*, means “showy”!



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Catalpas grow to heights of 40-75 feet, with a spread of around 20-40 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels! This species does well in most soil types. It drops large amounts of fruit, flowers, and leaves.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is tolerant of a wide range of moisture conditions. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees