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RUTGERS

LANDSCAPE & NURSERY

Japanese Pagoda Tree

Sophora japonica

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 35 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Scholar Tree

Japanese Pagoda Tree in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

An elegant and refined small shade or accent tree with attractive compound leaves, showy panicles of white flowers in spring and a gracefully rounded habit, an ideal size for home landscapes; adaptable to soil types, deserving of wider use

Ornamental Features

Japanese Pagoda Tree is bathed in stunning panicles of lightly-scented creamy white bell-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from mid to late summer. It has light green deciduous foliage. The pinnately compound leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Japanese Pagoda Tree is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Japanese Pagoda Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

Japanese Pagoda Tree flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- *Accent*
- *Shade*

Planting & Growing

Japanese Pagoda Tree will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 35 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Japanese Pagoda Tree in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder