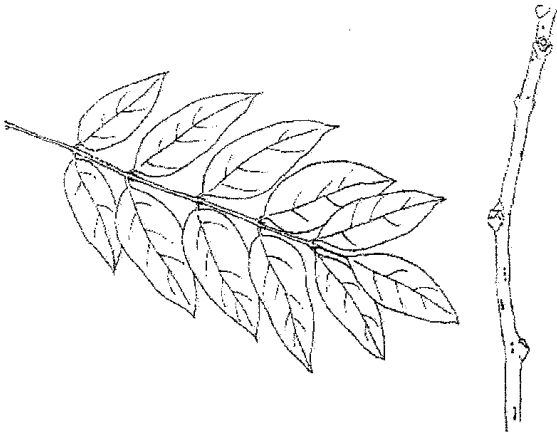


Japanese Pagoda Tree

Sophora japonica



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is considered one of the best trees for streets and landscapes but it does need to have a large area because the mature tree is quite large. The full grown tree is impressive with far stretching branches that create a dense, rounded and full crown and light shade. The pinnately compound leaves are a rich green in color but they do not develop significant fall color. In July and August fragrant, cream-colored flowers in panicles create a frothy mass over the canopy. The bark of mature trees is dark gray and corrugated.

HABIT AND SIZE: 50-75" high and just about as wide depending on the individual tree. As a young tree it is upright-spreading and develops a broadly rounded crown at maturity.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A good tree for city streets, large lawns, variable soil areas and large landscapes such as golf courses and parks. When in flower provides a comfortable effect. The leaves are a nice green and provide open shade. The flower, leaf rachises, and pods can be messy.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, pinnately compound, 6-10" long with 7-17 leaflets. The leaflet shape is ovate to lance-ovate, 1-2" long and 0.5-1" wide with wedge shaped or rounded bases and entire margins. The leaf color is a shiny bright green on top and glaucous (waxy bloom) below with appressed hairs. Base of petiole swollen. Fall color brown.

FLOWERS: Yellowish-white, 0.5" pea type, in 15" long panicles in late summer.

FRUIT: A smooth pod 2" long and 0.5" wide almost transparent.

BUD: Terminal bud absent. Lateral buds blackish, woolly, unstalked, vaguely scaly and hidden by the leaf scar. Swollen base of petiole encloses bud.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Canker, twig blight, powdery mildew and leaf hoppers.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-8. China and Korea

CULTIVARS: 'Pendula'- a weeping type, 'Regent'- excellent vigor and handsome form, 'Princeton Upright'- rapid growth and straight growth habit.