

Catalpa - Growing Guide

Growing Catalpa

The four species of catalpa which we offer are all of Chinese origin although *C. speciosa* is North American. *C. bignonioides*, the 'Indian Bean Tree', has been grown in the UK since 1726 and is now well established in parks and gardens in the UK. It makes an excellent feature tree in a lawn with its enormous ovate or heart shaped leaves and pyramidal panicles, 8-10in long and wide, of numerous white flowers in mid to late summer. These are tube or bell like with two ridges and two rows of yellow spots. The tube has purple spots in the tube and on its lower side. The fruits are rounded, pencil like, and from 6-15in in length. Hence the 'bean tree'.



Catalpa fargesii var *duclouxii*



Catalpa szechuanica



Catalpa x erubescens purpurea

The other species of catalpa are just as hardy as *C. bignonioides* but do not grow quite as big or tall. *C. fargesii* var *duclouxii* produces root suckers at Caerhays and grows to only 15 or so feet. Its flowers are pinkish and frilly with spotting of brown and red around the throat stained with yellow. The flowers appear in corymbs of seven to fifteen flowers in June. To us it is the most spectacular of the catalpas in flower. The plant at Ventnor Botanic by the hothouse can be the best display in the garden there.



Catalpa bignonioides



Catalpa bignonioides



Catalpa bignonioides



Catalpa bignonioides



Catalpa x erubescens 'Purpurea'



Catalpa x erubescens 'Purpurea'



Catalpa x erubescens 'Purpurea'

Catalpa are most easily grown from seed collected from the ripe 'beans' in late autumn and sown straight away in an open frame.

Tidying Damage On Catalpa - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/HGLFJNjIwJE>

Catalpa Duclouxii - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here https://www.youtube.com/fcr_f3FdYCA

Catalpa In July - Video Tip

0:00 - Catalpa bignonioides

3:30 - C. x erubescens

5:17 - x erubescens 'Purpurea'

6:28 - speciosa 'Pulverulenta'

8:17 - bungei 'Duclouxii Group' (stills)

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/v7kNi6NASMs>

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