

Princesstree

Paulownia tomentosa

Description

Introduced to the United States as an ornamental in 1840.

Habit

Medium sized tree that grows 50-60 ft. tall and 2 ft. in diameter.

Leaves

Opposite, simple, heart-shaped and large, 5-12 in. long, typically velvety, green above and paler below. Leaves on younger trees show course serrations or even lobes.

Stems

Stout, light brown in color, numerous lenticels, pith is hollow second year; terminal bud lacking, lateral buds small. Bark is thin, grayish brown in color with shallow fissures.

Flowers

Large, showy, upright clusters of purple flowers; individual tube-like flowers are 1.5 to 2 in. long,





very fragrant and appear in mid-Spring.

Fruits and Seeds

Oval capsule, 1-1.5 in. long, filled with numerous (1000s) small seeds; capsules initially sticky and green in color, later turning brown and dry.

Habitat

Native to China. Can be found in forests, roadsides and stream banks.

Reproduction

By seed and sprouting.

Similar

Easily mistaken for Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Control requires persistence due to strong sprouting ability, rapid growth and seed production. Cut mature trees to ground level at the onset of flowering. Girdling will kill the top of tree but sprouts are common and require follow-up treatment with foliar herbicide such as glyphosate or triclopyr.

Credits

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