ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY BULLETIN
OF
POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JULY 15, 1920

Catalpas are trees of the Bignonia Family and grow naturally only in eastern North America, the West Indies and northern and central China. They all have large simple leaves, and large terminal clusters of two-lipped flowers followed by long slender pods containing many thin seeds furnished at the ends with long tufts of pale hairs. All the Catalpas and one or two of their hybrids are growing in the Arboretum with the exception of the species from the West Indies. The first Catalpa, *C. bignonioides*, which attracted the attention of botanists and gardeners was sent from South Carolina to England early in the eighteenth century. This for a long time was the only American species cultivated in Europe or the United States, but forty or fifty years ago it became known that another species grew in the valley of the Ohio River and southward along the Mississippi River as far south as western Tennessee and northeastern Arkansas. To this Catalpa the name *speciosa* has been well given as it is now known to be the largest, the fastest growing, the hardiest and the handsomest of all Catalpa-trees. It is the earliest of all the species, too, to bloom, and it is now covered with flowers which are larger than those of the other species. On the rich alluvial bottom lands of the Mississippi River this tree has often grown to the height of one hundred and twenty feet and formed a trunk four and a half feet in diameter. In New England it will never grow to that size, but although it was introduced into the eastern states less than fifty years ago trees in eastern Massachusetts are already fully forty feet high and have been flowering and ripening their seeds for many years. Catalpas produce soft wood which is remarkably durable when it comes in contact with the soil, and in some of the middle western states large plantings of *Catalpa speciosa* have been made to supply fence-posts, for which the wood is admirably

suited, and for railway ties for which it has proved too soft. The other American species, *Catalpa bignonioides*, probably originated somewhere in the southeastern part of the country, but it has been so spread by escapes from planted trees that it is no longer possible to determine the location of its first home. It was for many years one of the common planted trees in the middle and southern states, and specimens are still occasionally seen in southern New England. Now, however, when one wants to plant a Catalpa-tree in this country he finds in nurseries only *C. speciosa*. The more southern species is a smaller tree with shorter-pointed leaves; it grows less rapidly and blooms two or three weeks later than the eastern species. The flowers are smaller, in shorter and more compact clusters, and the pods are smaller with thicker walls. There is a dwarf form of *Catalpa bignonioides* (var. *nana*) which grafted on the stem of one of the tree Catalpas has in recent years been largely planted in this country for the supposed decoration of gardens which are more or less formal in character. It is not known where the dwarf plant originated, and if it has ever flowered the fact is not known at the Arboretum. The fact that it is universally sold in American nurseries under the name of *Catalpa Bungei* causes confusion for that name properly belongs to a tree from northern China. This Chinese tree has narrow, long-pointed dark green leaves, small yellowish flowers and small pods. It has been growing in the Arboretum since 1904, and was perfectly hardy until the winter of 1916-17 when one of the trees was killed to the ground and others were more or less injured. They have now recovered, but this Catalpa has not yet flowered in the Arboretum. Compared with the American species it has no value as an ornamental tree. Another Chinese species, *Catalpa ovata*, was sent many years ago to this country from Japan where it has long been cultivated. It is a small tree with comparatively small, dark green leaves, many-flowered clusters of small, yellowish spotted flowers, and slender pods. This tree, which will grow in regions too cold for the American species, has been somewhat planted in the United States, although as an ornamental tree it does not have much to recommend it. In this country it has proved most valuable as one of the parents of the natural hybrid, *Catalpa hybrida*, which appeared several years ago in the Teas Nursery at Baysville, Indiana, and is often called *C. Teasii* and "Teas' Hybrid Catalpa." This is a fast-growing and hardy tree with flowers like those of *C. bignonioides*, the American parent, although smaller but in larger clusters, and leaves in shape resembling those of *C. ovata*. The two species introduced by Wilson from central China, *Catalpa Duclouxii* and *C. Fargesii*, are still living but give little promise of ever becoming valuable additions to the number of summer-flowering trees which can be successfully used for the decoration of New England gardens.

Some good shrubs. Although notes are published year after year in these Bulletins about new or little known shrubs as they flower, the Arboretum is constantly asked for lists of the best new shrubs for northern gardens; and in response to this request it now submits another list of comparatively new plants. The plants in this list are hardy in southern New England and the middle states. The two Rhododendrons, however, cannot be grown in soil impregnated with lime. Several of these plants cannot, unfortunately, be found in American nurseries; they

1920. "Catalpas." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(13), 49–50. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321067>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321067>

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