

LEAST WANTED!



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PRINCESS-TREE

Paulownia tomentosa

Native to East Asia, princess-tree was introduced to the U.S. in the early 1800s. Mature trees produce thousands of pale-

violet flowers which can result in hundreds of wind and water spread seeds from each flower. The species seeds readily into disturbed ground in most soil types where rapidly growing seedlings quickly displace native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Injury to the tree may result in numerous

root suckers and the formation of a colony. A poor yard tree with weak wood, it is easily broken by ice, snow and wind. Fast growing, it frequently out competes and displaces native trees and is poised to invade much of Kentucky's forestland.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES



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YELLOWWOOD

Cladrastis kentukea

Yellowwood is a tree that grows to a height of 50 feet, with slender, wide-spreading branches that form a round crown. In May long panicles of graceful, drooping white pea-like flowers appear. The pinnate leaves darken until they become yellow in the fall. Found growing mostly in the Bluegrass region of the state, the yellow inner wood was once used by dye makers. Yellowwood is adaptable to various soil types and is shade and drought tolerant. The symmetry and natural beauty of both bloom and foliage make it an attractive addition to any landscape.

To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky's native biodiversity, a Least Wanted plant will be featured in the Spring of each year with suggested alternatives.



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NORTHERN CATALPA

Catalpa speciosa

An attractive native alternative is the northern catalpa. This durable tree can grow between 40 and 70 feet tall with a canopy spread of 20 to 40 feet. The catalpa boasts large heart-shaped leaves and striking clusters of 2-inch wide white flowers. The flowers look like miniature corsages with their ruffled edges and throats lined with delicate spots of purple. Catalpas also offer an impressive winter silhouette with their thick twigs and branches and their long bean-like seedpods. Care should be taken to locate this tree in an area with plenty of room to grow and mature with age.



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SERVICEBERRY

Amelanchier arborea

Serviceberry, also known as Sarvis tree, is a small tree ranging from 10 to 25 feet in height. It grows in a variety of habitats from bottom lands to ridges and is frequent across Kentucky. The leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and have finely toothed margins. The silky white flowers of this under-story tree begin to bloom from March into April, well ahead of many other forest trees. These showy flowers make it an attractive yard tree. The sweet, small apple-like fruits are sought after by a variety of wildlife in early summer.



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Promoting alternatives to invasive landscape plants