

Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)

Identification:

Princess Tree, or Empress Tree is easily recognizable from afar for its enormous vibrant green leaves. Commonly confused with Catalpa, the pith of the Princess Tree is hollow, whereas the Catalpa is not. Blooms of showy violet to pink flowers appear in mid-summer.

Habitat and Spread:

Paulownia can withstand incredible ranges of temperature, and is typically found in upland forest areas with significant drainage and relatively low nutrient levels. It thrives in mixed-hardwood forests, especially disturbed areas within them. The seeds, which come out of a capsule-like fruit by the thousands, are small, light and winged, allowing wind and water to disperse the species throughout vast expanses of land.



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Management Techniques:

Commonly used methods for this species include tree girdling, where a deep cut into the cambium layer of the tree is made all the way around a lower portion of the trunk. Additionally, glyphosate or triclopyr can be applied into this cut, in a process called “frilling”. Cutting and treating the stump with systemic herbicide is another option, but requires tree-felling, which can be problematic in some settings.

Native Range and Original Introduction:

Although it originates from Central and Eastern China, Princess Tree has been cultivated on every continent on the globe (excluding Antarctica). Originally a crop tree, it's a known world-wide ornamental, but has raised concern regarding its aggressive growth habits since the 1980s all along the Eastern Coast of



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