Japanese pagoda tree

Styphnolobium japonicum

Japanese pagoda tree is a medium to large tree with a mature height of 50 to 70 feet and an equal spread. Appropriate for a medium to large yard or park, this tree will reward the grower with panicles of creamy white flowers in mid-July through August. The flowers develop into long green bean pods constricting between beans. It grows best in loamy, well drained soils with full sun, but has tolerance for dryer soils and urban conditions. The bark is olive-green on younger stems and turns grayish-brown when bark becomes thicker. The stems and turns grayish-brown when bark becomes thicker. The bark is olive-green on younger stems and turns grayish-brown when bark becomes thicker. The alternate, compound leaves are lustrous bright green in early season turning darker later in the summer and fall with little color change. Many may notice the scientific name is not Sophora japonica. In 1830, it was suggested it be placed in the new genus and specie renamed. In the late 1990’s, additional documented evidence for the name warranted it.

Missouri Community Forestry Council 16th Annual Conference

The MCFC conference is a great way to learn, earn ISA CEU’s, and meet others interested in trees. Happening in Columbia, MO on March 17 - 19, 2009, the conference theme is “Rooted in Change” with a wide variety of topics and tours.

Major speakers include: Jim Rocca, ISA Award of Merit Honoree in 2007; Dr. Ed Gilman, University of Florida professor and well known tree researcher; Teri Heyer, U.S. Forest Service Watershed Forester; Joseph Gregory, Davey Resource Group and i-Tree development team member; Dr. Chris Starbuck, University of Missouri Professor and researcher; Rob Lawrence, MDC Forest Entomologist; and Noel Boyer, Owner of All About Trees (formerly A&A Tree Service), ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, and Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbing Champion. These and other speakers will cover new techniques in tree selection and care, watershed protection, i-Tree, Emerald ash borer, and value added wood products. Tours include visits to a relatively new arboretum, the University of Missouri campus, and the 2008 ISA Gold Leaf Award winning Flat Branch Park. Successes, challenges, and future plans will be presented and discussed.

Conference early registration of $125 is due by February 18, 2009. Over 10 ISA CEU’s and SAF CFE’s may be earned at this conference. Student scholarships and discounted registration is available. You may download the registration form and student scholarship application from: www.mocommunitytrees.com/whatsgoingon.html.

Project Releaf Spring 2009 - Discounted Tree Sales

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is again offering reduced cost trees to municipalities, schools, churches, parks, non-profits and neighborhood groups. Orders with checks must be received by February 20, 2009. Forty-four different shrubs, trees and cultivars are being offered. All trees and shrubs must be planted on public or non-profit property.

All single stem trees are 1.25 inch caliper with multi-stem trees and shrubs ranging from 4 to 5 feet tall. The plants appear to be discounted at least one-half the retail value, but do not carry a guarantee. All plants must be picked up at the Forest ReLeaf Nursery in Maryland Heights.

The Project Releaf website ( http://63.135.107.79/planttrees_projectreleaf.asp ) has more information and an order booklet.

Distinguishing Your Community by Its Natural Resources

This half-day training session will provide valuable information to help local and regional government officials understand the linkages between successful development and the preservation of natural resources. The workshop will also demonstrate and highlight natural resources-based Geographical Information Systems (GIS) applications that can be used to benefit communities. All Communities are encouraged to send representatives to this workshop. Watch for an announcement flyer for this February 20 event. For more information and to register contact Saundra Dane (SDane@missouristate.edu), 417-836-6900 ext 5 with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments.

Trees & Utilities National Conference

The Trees & Utilities National Conference is the big place to bring together utilities, communities, and nonprofits to discuss a joint concern of trees while providing safe, reliable electric service. The April 6 - 8, 2009 event will be in Dallas, TX.

Topics include; Utility / Community Partnerships; Tree Care and Vegetation Management; Public Education and Communication; Trenching and Tunneling Under Trees; Pruning and Removing Diseased Trees; Planning for and Responding to Storms; Tree Planting for Energy Conservation; Urban Forestry Carbon Offsets; Easement Law; and Tree Line USA® Recognition Program.

Early Registration of $349 is due March 16, 2009. Information and registration materials are available at: www.arborday.org/tu.
Use of names of commercial products or organizations does not imply an endorsement or recommendation by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

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What's Happening

February 4

February 12

February 17 -20
ISA Midwestern Chapter Annual Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Sioux Falls, SD, Registration and information at http://www.mwisa.org/me/page.do?sitePageId=37767.

February 20
Distinguishing Your Community by Its Natural Resources, MDC Nature Center, Springfield, MO, 8:30 - Noon  Contact Saundra Dane (SDane@missouristate.edu), 417-836-6900 ext 5.

February 22 - 27
Municipal Forestry Institute, Palm Key Center, Ridgeland, SC, Registration and information at http://www.urban-forestry.com/me/page.do?sitePagelD=50685&orgId=sma.

March 17

March 17 - 19
MCFC Annual Conference, Marriott Hotel, Columbia, MO, For more information visit: www.mocommunitytrees.com/whatsgoingon.html.

March 23
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, New-Mac Electric Community Rm., Anderson, MO, 6:30 PM  Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 24
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Community Center, Corner of County Rd. & Maple St., Monett, MO, 6:30 PM  Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 26
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, City Hall Council Chambers., Mount Vernon, MO, 6:30 PM  Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 30
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, MDC Office Meeting Rm., El Dorado Springs, MO, 6:30 PM  Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

March 31
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Elementary School Cafeteria, 408 Locust, Lockwood, MO, 6:30 PM  Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

April 2
Tree Selection and Planting Workshop, Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, 6:30 PM  Contact Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov), 417-629-3423.

April 6

April 8

April 22

Web Site Review

The International Society of Arboriculture created the “Trees Are Good” web site to promote and assist homeowners with proper tree care. The site provides information on how to select, plant, prune, and care for trees. It also shows how to select an arborist to work on their trees. If you have clients with questions, this is a good third party to refer them to. See the site at www.treearegood.org.

How to Kill a Tree!

Heavy pruning helps the young tree by forcing it to flush lots of new branches to fill it out.

Of course, the above is incorrect. No tree should be pruned so seriously it is forced to flush new growth. All this does is remove so much foliage the tree cannot feed itself and must respond by flushing out new growth to make leaves to convert sunlight into sugars for it to use. No more than 25% of the live foliage should be removed at any one pruning cycle. Try to maintain a 1/3rd trunk - 2/3rd crown ratio for tree health. It takes years, if not decades, to properly prune and direct growth of a young tree.

Congratulations to Carthage Water and Electric Plant for earning the Tree Line USA award for 2008.