

Japanese Flowering Pagodatree (*Sophora japonica*)

The Japanese Flowering Pagodatree grows to a height of about 40 to 60 feet and spread of 30 to 45 feet, forming a fine-textured, round canopy even as a young tree. It has a rapid growth rate and tolerates polluted city conditions, heat, and drought. The tree prefers a sunny, open location on any light soil. The very showy, greenish-white to yellow flowers are produced in mid to late summer and provide an airy feel to the tree for several weeks. A yellow dye can be made by boiling the dried flowers and buds in water. The young green twigs turn a dark grey with age. This particular species must be at least 10-years-old to bloom, but the cultivar 'Regent' blooms at six to eight-years-old.

Overall, the Japanese Flowering Pagodatree has proven to be a good street tree, although the roots are a bit aggressive and there is some mess from the flowers and fruit. It is very pollution tolerant and its open growth habit discourages birds from roosting.