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Cercidiphyllum japonicum 'Pendula': 'Pendula' Katsuratree[1]

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Introduction

Weeping Katsuratree grows best in a sunny exposure and in a moist soil, but is considered drought-tolerant once established. The tree reaches a height of 15 to 30 feet with a cascading irregular canopy and spectacular yellow with some red fall color. New growth is reddish turning a light pale green. The growth rate is moderately rapid when young but slows down with age. The tree often has a shallow root system. The trunk normally flares out at the base, gracefully dividing into the numerous shallow roots often prominent at the soil surface.

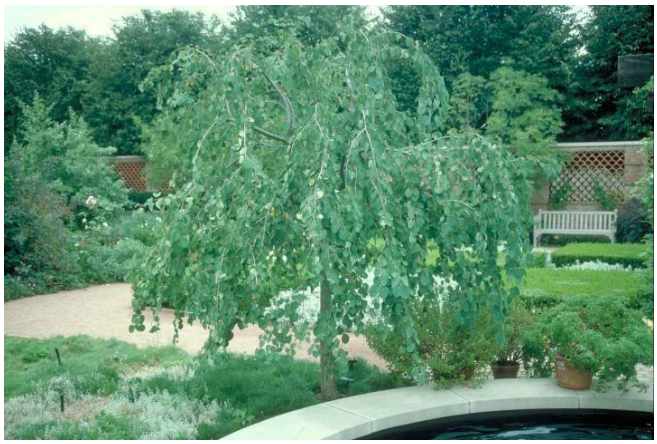


Figure 1. Middle-aged *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Pendula': 'Pendula' Katsuratree
Credit: Ed Gilman

General Information

Scientific name: *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

Pronunciation: ser-sih-dih-FILL-um juh-PAWN-ih-kum

Common name(s): 'Pendula' Katsuratree

Family: *Cercidiphyllaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4B through 8B (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: specimen; highway median

Availability: not native to North America

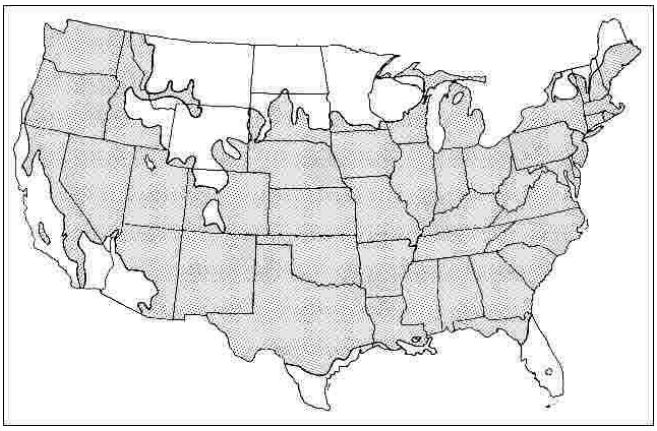


Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 15 to 30 feet

Spread: 15 to 25 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: weeping, round

Crown density: moderate

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: crenate

Leaf shape: ovate, orbiculate

Leaf venation: palmate, reticulate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: showy

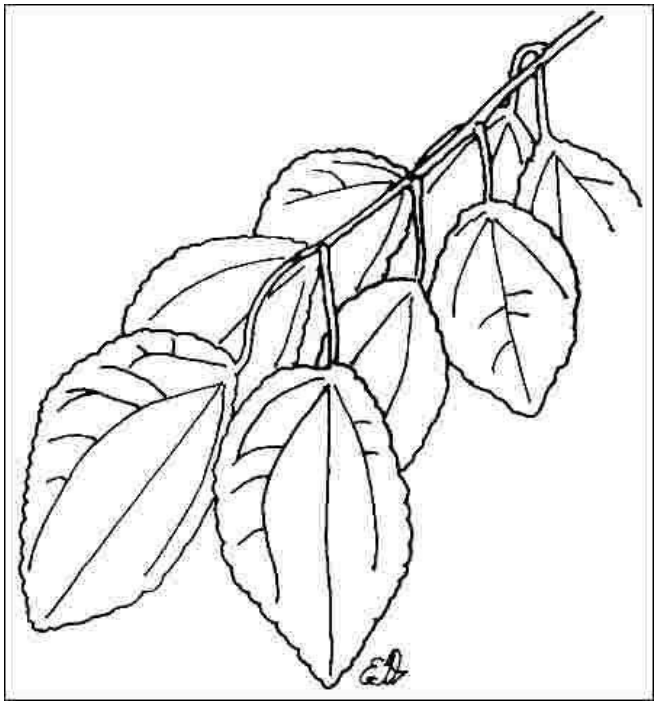


Figure 3. Foliage

Flower

Flower color: green

Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: pod or pod-like, elongated

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: unknown

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: susceptible to breakage

Current year twig color: brown

Current year twig thickness: thin

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

Other

Roots: can form large surface roots

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: yes

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management

The tree is best used as a specimen planted to show off the unusual form and character of the crown. Katsuratree has proven to be fairly pest free. Transplant in spring.

Katsuratree is intolerant of drought and should be protected from direct exposure to wind. Leaves often drop in mid to late summer in response to dry weather. Not suited for compacted soil since the shallow roots will be a nuisance for lawn and sidewalk maintenance. Provide irrigation and keep the soil beneath the canopy mulched. Coarse root system calls for production in fabric containers, frequent root pruning field-grown stock, or growing in air root-pruned containers.

Pests and diseases

None serious. Occasionally chewing insects eat the foliage.

[1] This document is ENH303, one of a series of the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the Ask IFAS website at https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication. © UF/IFAS. This publication is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 *To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/.*

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