



## *Styphnolobium japonicum*

Japanese Pagoda Tree / Chinese Scholar Tree



*Styphnolobium japonicum* 35-40cm girth Standard CG

*Styphnolobium japonicum* was formerly included within a broader interpretation of the genus *Sophora*. The species of *Styphnolobium* differ from *Sophora* in lacking the ability to form symbioses with rhizobia (nitrogen fixing bacteria) on their roots.

Despite the common name (Japanese pagoda tree) for the *Styphnolobium japonicum*, the tree originated in China and was introduced to the UK in 1753 and won the Award of Garden Merit in 2002.

The tree is an interesting and splendid specimen that has a rapid growth rate, and will flourish in a sheltered sunny position. The tree can also be a suitable tree for polluted areas.

*Styphnolobium japonicum* has compound leaves that give the tree the light and airy appearance, once the tree reaches maturity it produces yellow-white, pea-like flowers that hang in racemes. During the autumn the seed pods appear and are held on throughout the winter.

### **Plant Profile**

**Name:** *Styphnolobium japonicum*  
(*Sophora japonica*)

**Common Name:** Japanese Pagoda Tree

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Height:** 15-18m

**Width:** 12-15m

**Demands:** Full sun, with well-drained Chalk, Loam or Sandy soil

**Foliage:** Deciduous, pinnate leaves

**Flowers:** pea-like flowers in panicles in summer and autumn.



*Styphnolobium japonicum* 3-4m high multistem WRB





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*Styphnolobium japonicum* is one of the 50 fundamental herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine.

There is a tree standing in Beijing known as the Guilty Pagoda tree, it was named this after the last ruler of the Ming Dynasty, Chongzhen was said to have hung himself in 1644. The tree was then considered guilty for allowing the death of the emperor.

The tree had many practical uses, the wood is strong and flexible and a tea can be made from the bark, the Chinese believed it would be useful to stop bleeding and curing burns.



*Styphnolobium japonicum* 35-40 Std WRB



*Styphnolobium japonicum* Pendula 1/2 Stem



*Styphnolobium japonicum* multi stem 4.0-5.0m CG