



U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
×*Chitalpa* 'Strawberry Moon'



Botanical Name: ×*Chitalpa tashkentensis* 'Strawberry Moon'
(NA 82290; PI 699943)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6b/a - 7b/8

Development: ×*Chitalpa* 'Strawberry Moon' originated from a controlled cross made at the National Arboretum in 2008 between tetraploid ×*Chitalpa tashkentensis* 'Pink Dawn' and a diploid powdery mildew tolerant *Catalpa ovata*. The objective was to produce an improved pink-flowered, tree-form chitalpa. Forty-two seedlings from this cross were planted in a field trial for evaluation in July 2010. 'Strawberry Moon' was selected in 2014 and distributed for evaluation in 2015.

Significance: 'Strawberry Moon' is a triploid chitalpa combining reduced fruit set and smaller foliage size resulting in less litter compared to commonly planted catalpa. With darker pink flowers and improved habit, 'Strawberry Moon' is suitable for urban and suburban landscapes.

Description: **Height and width:** The original plant was 38.5 feet tall in March 2022, 12 years after field planting in Beltsville, MD. Six-year-old propagules averaged 17 feet tall with crown spread of 9.5 feet and are frequently multi-trunked.

Habit: Medium sized tree with open branching and attractive winter silhouette.

Foliage: Moderately sized ovate green leaves with occasional lobing. Leaves average 9 inches long by 4.3 inches wide, and are held well into fall.

Flowers: Whorled panicles of 30-50 flowers each. Panicles average 10 inches in length. Individual flowers have frilled lobes, with the lower lobe extending as a pollinator landing platform. Flower color appears pink with a pale yellow base and yellow-orange blotches.

Propagation: Propagates easily by summer cuttings under mist using 2000-3000 ppm IBA. May also be chip-budded in summer or grafted in winter on *C. speciosa*.

Landscape Use: Flowering tree with a tropical feel, suitable for specimen planting or groves in urban and suburban landscapes including public parks, commercial spaces, medians and residential properties.

Availability: Limited availability as liners, cuttings, or budwood to wholesale growers and propagators. Contact Margaret.Pooler@usda.gov for additional information.