Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree

Ceiba speciosa 'Willis Jr.'

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Floss Silk Tree, form. Chorisia speciosa

Description:

This is a great exotic looking tree that grows quickly and columnar when young but then slowy branches out like an umbrella; mulch the root area; the trunk is green when young and slowly ages to grey; flowers after leaves drop in autumn; a stunning tree

Ornamental Features

Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree features showy clusters of pink star-shaped flowers with white overtones, brown eyes and dark brown spots at the ends of the branches in mid fall. It has attractive forest green foliage with grayish green undersides. The serrated pointy palmate leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color. It features abundant showy creamy white capsules from late fall to early winter. The spiny gray bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It has no significant negative characteristics.



Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent

Planting & Growing

Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.



Willis Jr. Silk Floss Tree bark
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder