Fabaceae  Sophora  

**Styphnolobium japonicum**  
**Japanese pagoda tree, Honey tree**  
**Sophora japonica**

- Height: 15 - 20 m, fast growing
- Crown: round to fan-shaped, half-open crown, capricious growing
- Bark and branches: brown, grey
- Leaf: green, feathered leaf
- Sprout: late sprout
- Flowers: cream-white, flowers in July
- Fruits: grey
- Spines/thorns: none
- Toxicity: toxic components
- Soil type: clay soil, loamy soil, sandy soil, calcareous soil
- Soil moisture: suitable for dry soil
- Paving: tolerates paving
- Winter hardness: 6a (-23.3 to -20.6 °C)
- Wind resistance: moderate
- Wind / frost / salt: resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), resistant to de-icing salt
- Light requirement: light-loving
- Fauna tree: valuable for bees (honey plant), valuable for butterflies
- Playground tree: yes
- Tree for the future: yes
- Application: avenues and broad streets, parks, squares, tree containers, theme parks, cemeteries, roof gardens, industrial areas, large gardens
- Type/shape: clearstem tree, multi-stem tree, specimen tree, multi-stem roof, multi-stem umbrella
- Synonyms: Sophora japonica

Sturdy tree with a round crown at first that later becomes fan-shaped. Branches usually start low on the bending and forked trunk. The twigs and branches are remarkably green and bear may light-coloured lenticels. When broken they give off an unpleasant odour. The compound leaves are imparipinnate and approx. 25 cm long; the leaf segments are each 2 - 6 cm long and ovoid to elliptical. The creamy white to creamy yellow flowers are approx. 1.5 cm in size and grow on terminal plumes that can grow to about 30 cm long. The first flowers do not appear until after 10 to 15 years. The plentiful nectar makes the tree popular among bees. The grey pods are indented between seeds and appear in the autumn. Sophora japonica is not very prone to diseases or problems. Sophora japonica does not start producing abundant flowers until at a later age. Once in full bloom the entire tree is covered with an abundance of creamy-white flowers. The tree produces more flowers when the summer is warm.