



Paulownia fortunei FAST BLUE ('Minfast')



Height	15-20 m
Width	10-12m
Crown	pyramidal, half open crown
Bark and branches	twigs reddish brown, bark greyish brown
Leaf	oval, up to 20 cm long, medium green
Flowers	lila violet, in upright panicles, approx. 35 cm long, late April-early May
Fruits	ovoid capsule, brown, long-lasting
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	any, preferably not wet soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	6b (-20,5 to -17,8 °C)
Wind resistance	not good to moderate
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Fauna tree	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), valuable for bees (honey plant)
Application	avenues and broad streets
Shape	clearstem tree

FAST BLUE is a medium-sized tree up to about 20 m tall. The crown is pyramidal, distinguishing the tree from all other Paulownia species. The grey-brown bark remains smooth for a long time and will only become shallowly grooved later in life. The oval leaves are up to 20 cm long and medium green in colour. Besides the good pyramidal crown shape, flowering is the main ornamental value. The flower panicles are formed before winter, but the flowers open in April. The flower panicles are about 35 cm long but can reach almost 50 cm. The flowers are lilaviolet, a fraction darker than in *P. tomentosa* and up to 10 cm in size. FAST BLUE flowers also open about two weeks earlier than in *P. tomentosa*. They are followed by egg-shaped box fruits that usually remain on the tree until after winter.

FAST BLUE grows in any soil, provided it is not too wet and is sufficiently permeable. The tree tolerates a lot of heat and sunlight. However, FAST BLUE is sensitive to wind and the flower buds can also freeze during prolonged periods of frost. A somewhat sheltered location is therefore recommended.