Toad lilies are certainly more beautiful than their name implies. In late summer, they burst open with orchid-like blooms that last almost until frost (about six weeks). These Asian natives perform best in part shade making them perfect for a woodland or light shade garden. Sinonome is one of the best toad lilies with good drought tolerance and deep green shiny foliage that stays clean through fall. Its upright facing white flowers with ruby speckling look great when they catch glimpses of afternoon sun. *T. ‘Sinonome’* has an upright vase shape habit and forms a clump that reaches 2 to 2 1/2 feet.

Another Asian native, the Katsura tree is a fantastic specimen tree for large lawns and open spaces. *Cercidiphyllum* has a pyramidal habit in youth and some trees maintain that pyramidal shape but others become more wide-spreading at maturity, reaching a height of 40-60 feet. The heart-shaped leaves of Katsura emerge a beautiful reddish purple and gradually change to bluish green in the summer. Fall color varies from yellow to apricot. While the color is beautiful, the fragrance, although allusive is even more alluring. When leaves are senescing, they give off a spicy brown sugar odor that some people describe as smelling like cotton candy. You can’t smell this aroma by sniffing the leaves directly; it is simply present in the air around the Katsura in the fall, especially in the morning or evening when there is some moisture in the air. *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* requires ample moisture in the first few years after planting. Once established, it will tolerate dry spells, but will often lose a significant number of leaves. Michael Dirr (author of *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*) admits to loving this tree and even states that if he could use only one tree in the landscape, Katsura would be his first choice.