

'Imperial' Carolina Poplar

'Imperial' Carolina Poplar (*Populus x canadensis* Moench) is a tall fast-growing tree shaped somewhat like a pyramid. It is especially suited for use in windbreaks around orchards because it is deciduous and does not interfere with air circulation in the spring. It can also be grown for pulpwood and timber.



Description

'Imperial' is a hybrid that reaches a height of 50-80 feet. Its yellow gray bark becomes ridged toward the base of the tree. The twigs are somewhat angular and smooth and the buds are large and resinous. The tree's side smooth leaves are rounded at the base. Its branches curve upward and mature 'Imperial' poplars are narrow. Because 'Imperial' is a male hybrid, it does not produce the irritating cottony substance common to many poplar trees.

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center developed 'Imperial' from cuttings taken from established plantings at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center in Missouri. The Natural Resources Conservation Service obtained the original rooted cuttings in 1955 from the Andrews Nursery in Faribault, MN.



Establishment

In the temperate zone, 'Imperial' should generally be planted in the spring as soon as frost is out of the ground. Planting should be completed by May 15 or June 1, depending on the location.

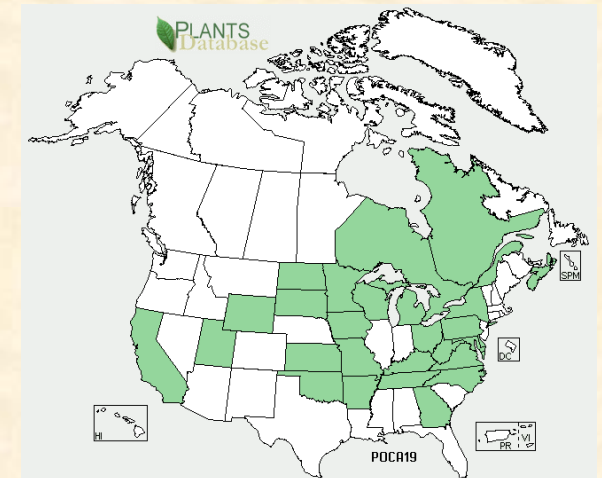
The maximum spacing between plantings should be 10-23 feet. One year old rooted stock is suitable for mechanical planting.

To ensure establishment, control weeds during establishment years. Care must be taken to prevent damage by rodents and other animals. Deer may be particularly troublesome because they use 'Imperial' for browse.

Roots from 'Imperial' can cause problems for underground drains and sewer pipes. Do not plant trees within 100 feet of any drain or sewer pipe. It is not recommended to plant 'Imperial' in urban locations. Laws may, in fact, prohibit its use in some areas.

Adaptation

'Imperial' grows very well in somewhat sandy soils with adequate moisture throughout the Great Lakes region. It does well wherever other poplar trees are common.



Availability

'Imperial' Carolina Poplar is a clone-propagated cultivar. NRCS maintains foundation stock at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center in East Lansing, MI. It is now available from most commercial nurseries in the Midwest.



For More Information

Please visit our Plant Materials website to learn more information on using plants to solve conservation problems.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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