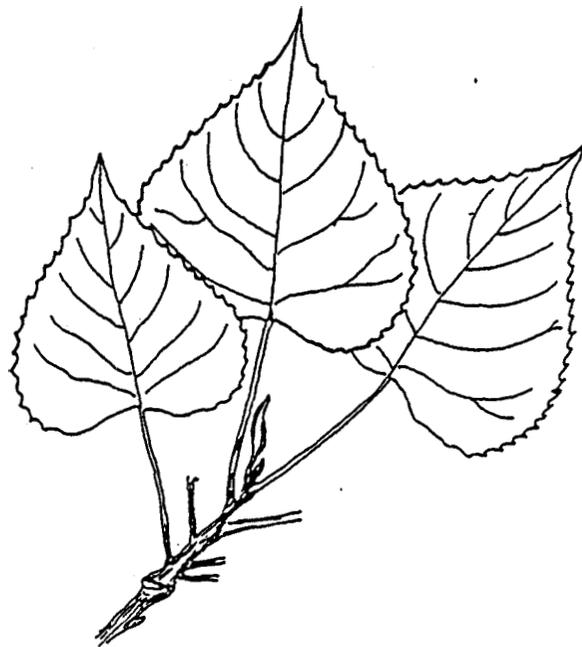


IMPERIAL CAROLINA POPLAR (Populus canadensis eugenei)
For Wind Erosion Control, Shade in Recreational
Developments and Environmental Improvement
In Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin

Description: Imperial Carolina poplar (Populus canadensis eugenei) has been released by the Ecological Sciences Division of the Soil Conservation Service as an improved variety of poplar. Imperial is a fast growing tree having a potential height of 40-90 feet. Plants are grown from cuttings and are considered to be male hybrids. (No cotton is formed and no seed.) Its growth type is intermediate between the columnar Lombardy and the Eastern cottonwood. Most references report it originating in the Simon-Louis Nursery near Metz, France, about 1832.



Conservation Use: Imperial Carolina poplar is especially suited for use in windbreaks around orchards because it is deciduous and does not interfere with air circulation in the spring. It also can be used in field and farmstead windbreaks and grown for pulpwood and timber. It is assumed that these rapid growing trees cannot be expected to have long life compared to many other hardwoods.

Site: Imperial prefers fertile, moist soil and does particularly well on well drained sites. Plants will also grow in drier, sandier locations of the uplands. It does poorly on soils with a clay hardpan near the surface and on sand dunes. It is moderately drought resistant when well established on good upland sites.

Site Preparation: Prepare site by plowing or disking if equipment can be used. Non-residual herbicides may be used for site preparation. Minimum soil preparation should consist of scalping sod off an area at least one foot across.

Date of Planting: Plant in early spring, as soon as frost is out of the ground. Planting should be completed by May 15 to June 1, depending on the location.

Planting Method: One-year-old rooted stock may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. If planted in a single row, a spacing of 10-23 feet is suggested. If planted in rows where equipment can be used, allow enough room to mow or cultivate for weed control.



Hardwood cuttings, approximately 18-24 inches long, taken from one-year-old wood may be used for direct field planting. It is best to open holes for cuttings with a planting bar, spade or shovel to avoid damaging the buds. Pushing cuttings into the soil may cause bud and bark damage and result in low survival. Cuttings should be kept moist and cool until planting. It is not considered helpful to soak cuttings in water prior to sticking.

Management: Weed control is necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Control weeds the first year by cultivation. Approved herbicides provide good weed control after establishment year; follow the instructions on the label. Protect from 2,4-D-type sprays, fire, grazing and trampling by livestock.

CAUTION: Roots from Imperial can clog underground drains and sewer pipes. Therefore, do not plant the trees within 100 feet of any drain or sewer pipe. SCS does not recommend planting Imperial in urban locations. Laws, in fact, prohibit its use in some areas.

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