

Populus

Populus, Poplar (*Salicaceae*)



alba "Nivea", White poplar

Origin: Southern-Europe, North Africa, the Middle East. Large deciduous tree with short trunk and broad, round crown. On the trunk and branches the bark is white. Lobate leaves, 6-12cm, dark green on the upper side, white and lanuginous underneath. At the slightest breeze the leaves tremble and shimmer in changing colours. Prefers cool or moist soil but grows also in dry and sandy soil. Extremely tolerant of maritime exposure. Use: as a freestanding specimen, in groups, as a street plant or a windbreak.

alba "Pyramidalis" (*P. alba* "Bolleana"), Bolle's poplar

Variety of the previous plant which is unusual because of the upright branches which almost stick to the straight, slender trunk. It forms a narrow, columnar silhouette which idens as the plant ages. Leaves, bark, growing requirements the same as *P. alba* "Nivea". Equally tolerant of maritime exposure and can be a suitable substitute for *P. nigra* "Italica" in coastal areas where salt laden winds prevail.



Populus



nigra "Italica" **(P. nigra "Pyramidalis"),** Black poplar

Origin: Italy. Very popular deciduous tree, grown all over Europe. Pyramidal habit, slender, the branches are close to the trunk starting from the base creating an elegant silhouette which does not take up too much space. Rhomboid leaves, wider (8-10cm) than they are long (6-8cm), borne on long stalks. The leaves are pale, shiny green and often, but not always, they turn yellow in autumn. Flowers: crimson catkins in March-April, male only, so do not produce fluffy seeds and do not make lawns and pavements dirty. Prefers cool, moist, alkaline soil. Short-lived plant. Used as a street plant and alongside canals.

tremula

Origin: Europe, Asia. Deciduous tree with a crown that is at first conical, later becoming oval- elongate or roundish. The trunk is smooth and straight with a grey-green bark which flakes off with age. The leaves are 5cm long, small and round with undulate margins, dark green on the upper side, bluish underneath. The leaf stalks are extremely flattened making the leaves shimmer at the slightest breeze. In autumn they are tinged with a beautiful amber colour. Flowers in male and female catkins borne by different trees. They appear in March and the female ones become woolly and shed white seeds in May. The plant continuously produces shoots which form new trees. Prefers fertile soil but grows well even in dry and sandy soil. Frequently used for reinforcing the ground and for forming windbreakers.

