

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Populus deltoides*

Family: Salicaceae (Willow)

Hardiness: Zone 2

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Fast

Mature Height: >45'

Longevity: Long

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: Inconspicuous

Fruit: Light, fluffy 'cotton' released in early summer

Fall Color: Yellow

Cottonwood

Description

The largest and fastest growing tree in the state. Native to moist soils along streams and wetlands throughout North Dakota. Flood control dams have reduced spring flooding and therefore the success of natural cottonwood regeneration along riparian areas. The largest living tree in North Dakota is 110 feet tall with a canopy spread of 94 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full Sun.

Water: Medium.

Soil: Moist, well drained soils.

Comments

Technically, *Populus deltoides* is Eastern cottonwood, while the natural variety Plains cottonwood (*P. deltoides* var. *occidentalis*) is found in western North Dakota and further west in the Great Plains. The ranges of Eastern cottonwood and Plains cottonwood overlap.

Cottonwood is dioecious, meaning that there are separate male trees and female trees. 'Siouxland' cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* 'Siouxland') is a male and is therefore seedless. It is also rust-resistant and was released by SDSU, Brookings, South Dakota.

Populus deltoides is one of the parents in a number of hybrid poplars, conferring cold hardiness and fast growth.

Credits: Tree Selector Website, https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_pode3.pdf

