

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Populus tremuloides*

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: Green

Fall Color: Yellow

Quaking Aspen

Description

Sometimes called trembling aspen because their leaves tremble in a light breeze due to their flattened petioles. Quaking aspen has the most extensive native range of any tree in North America, from Alaska to the East Coast and down the Rocky Mountains to New Mexico. Rapidly recolonizes disturbed sites (after fire, logging, or other disturbances). Aspen trees grow fairly straight and become clear of lower limbs over time. The largest tree in North Dakota is 70 feet tall with a canopy spread of 39 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun.

Water: Medium water use.

Soil: Prefers moist, well drained soils but adaptable to a wide variety of sites.

Comments

The bark of quaking aspen is white to cream and smooth in young trees but develops dark ridges and furrows with age, especially at the base of the tree. Often grows in the wild in groves with each tree being a clone rising from an extensive root system. Wild groves will typically be all male or all female. Generally intolerant of urban pollution.

Credits: Plant selector website, <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a895>, <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=160>



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