

## Populus - Growing Guide

### Caring For Populus

#### *Poplar*

There are about 35 species of poplar but Burncoose stocks only four. One is a common species which is seen growing wild in most UK counties and makes a good windbreak in exposed or coastal conditions and will tolerate dry situations (*P. alba*). The others are specimen or feature plants generally grown in parkland or more formal settings so that their foliage and, in one case, fluffy seeds can be appreciated and enjoyed. Poplars have very invasive root systems and should not be planted near buildings or septic tanks.

Poplars have spectacular growth rates and ovate or triangular leaves. Their flowers are in the form of male and female catkins which may appear on the same or separate trees. In some species the female catkins then become fluffy white tassels of seeds. Many poplars produce suckers at the base of the tree or near the trunk if any roots rise above the ground. These all need removing annually as they appear. Poplars are most easily propagated from hardwood cuttings taken in late autumn and set in an outside plot.

*P. alba*, the white poplar, can grow to more than 70ft. These trees have white, hairy young shoots and the undersides of the wavy margined green leaves are thickly covered in white hair on their undersides. We use this tree frequently in our coastal or moorland landscaping projects for its extreme hardiness and wind tolerance.



Populus alba



Populus alba



Populus alba



Populus alba



Populus candicans  
'Aurora' (P. x jackii  
'Aurora')



P. candicans



*Populus deltoides*



*Populus deltoides* 'Purple Tower'



*Populus deltoides* 'Purple Tower'



*Populus lasiocarpa*



*Populus lasiocarpa*



*Populus* × *canescens*



*Populus purdomii*

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**Burncoose Nurseries: Gwennap, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BJ**

Telephone: +44 (0) 1209 860316 Fax: +44 (0) 1209 860011 Email: [info@burncoose.co.uk](mailto:info@burncoose.co.uk)

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