

# Populus alba

## White Poplar, abele, silver poplar, silverleaf poplar



*Populus alba* (abele, white poplar) is native to North Africa, Central Asia, South and Central Europe. It is a pioneer species that grows in many different types of soil. The species can reach heights of up to 40 metres under ideal conditions, but usually reaches heights of up to 20 metres. The crown is irregular, wide oval and semi-open. In its natural form, the abele is a large, multi-stem tree.

In March, *Populus alba* blooms silver-white catkins on bare wood. The female catkins form capsules that open in the summer and then disperse a plenitude of cotton-like seeds. The leaves bud early, with felty white hair on both sides, which disappears on top later on in the season, making them a glossy dark green. The leaves are palmate lobate on long shoots and elliptical and dentate on short shoots. Its autumn colour is a deep golden yellow. The most characteristic property of abeles is their grey-white bark, with large diamond-shaped lenticels that look like eyes.

The abele is strong, takes to soil easily, grows quickly, and tolerates salt spray, (coastal) winds and partial shade. Dry sand soil is not a problem, which is why the tree is even planted in dunes. *Populus alba* is an important tree for the landscape, as a property boundary in windy areas, on the coast, as avenue plants along roads and canals, and in forests. The species suffers somewhat from branches breaking and grows many root shoots and root suckers.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, woodland planting stock | **Topiary on stem:** pollard

### USE

**Location:** avenue, park, large garden, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, windbreak, bioswale, coastal area | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting, Solid planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 15 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 3A - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** butterflies | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, pendulous | **Flower colour:** white-pink, silver | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** silvery white emerging leaves, dark green, underside felty white, underside white-grey | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, palmate, polished, underside hairy, dentate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** striking, rich fruit yield, pappuses, capsules | **Fruit colour:** white, green, grey | **Bark colour:** white, grey, pale grey | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey | **Twigs:** hairy | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, root suckers,