

Populus simonii 'Fastigiata'
Pyramidal Simon Poplar



Populus simonii 'Fastigiata', part of the balsam poplar group, was selected in China in 1913. As a young tree, it grows rapidly, very narrowly, and almost columnar in form. With age, this selection develops into a broadly ascending tree up to fifteen meters tall, with distinctly upward-curving branches that form an open crown up to ten meters wide.

The cultivar 'Fastigiata' has dark green, inversely ovate leaves with serrated margins that are very small, especially for a balsam poplar. The underside of the leaves is lighter green to whitish. Like all balsam poplars, the emerging foliage of *Populus simonii* 'Fastigiata' has a pleasant balsam fragrance. Because the leaves emerge early, there is a risk of damage from late spring frost, although the tree recovers well. With age, the tree develops drooping, reddish brown, angular, slender twigs that give it an elegant appearance. The bark is gray and furrowed. This cultivar is male and therefore does not produce fruits; the red male catkins are small and appear after leaf emergence.

Populus simonii 'Fastigiata' is an attractive solitary tree for parks, green strips, and larger gardens. As a fast-growing pioneer species, it quickly establishes a mature park structure and provides protection for more slowly growing species. The selection is reasonably wind resistant but sensitive to Marssonina leaf spot, rust, and bacterial canker, and it also tolerates road salt poorly. Its shallow roots can lift paving, so it is advisable not to plant it in paved areas, although permeable surfaces with a well-designed rooting space are possible. A sunny location with calcareous soil and a moist, fertile substrate is ideal. *Populus simonii* 'Fastigiata' is also highly heat tolerant, making it well suited for urban environments where a sufficiently large planting pit is available.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees

USE
Location: avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside | **Pavement**: none, open | **Planting concepts**: Landscape planting

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: wide oval | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 10 - 15 m | **Width**: 5 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4A - 6B

ASPECTS
Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: neutral, alkaline | **Extreme environments**: tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat, tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: catkins, discrete | **Flower colour**: red | **Flowering period**: March - May | **Leaf colour**: dark green, buds bright green, underside white-grey | **Leaves**: deciduous, obovate, leaf scented, serrate | **Autumn colour**: yellow, green | **Fruits**: no fruit | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: furrowed | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: bare, pendulous, long shoots | **Root system**: shallow, extensive, roots push up surface

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