

Populus trichocarpa 'Columbia River'

Black cottonwood 'Columbia River', western balsam-poplar 'Columbia River', California poplar 'Columbia River'



Populus trichocarpa 'Columbia River' (Western balsam poplar 'Columbia River') is a very fast-growing clone, developed around 1962 for log production by the Canadian match industry (UNAL, Union Allumetti re). The species was distributed in the Netherlands by the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture in 1975. This poplar forms a straight, continuous trunk with upright branches. This makes for a narrow, densely branched tree, even when it is older.

In March, *Populus trichocarpa* 'Columbia River' blooms red catkins on bare wood. The cultivar is male and therefore does not produce cotton-like seeds. Its large, elongated ovoid, leather-like dark green leaves are similar to those of the main species. Its leaves bud yellow-green and emit a characteristic balsam fragrance. Its summer colour is dark green with a white underside; its autumn colour is yellow.

This is the most wind-proof cultivar of *Populus trichocarpa*, but still cannot be used in areas with a lot of wind or coastal winds. The tree does best in sheltered environments in the countryside, in parks and in large gardens. *Populus trichocarpa* 'Columbia River' is cultivated for log production in fertile and heavier types of soil. The cultivar is well able to tolerate Marssonina and bacterial canker and is reasonably able to tolerate rust.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees

USE

Location: park, large garden, cemetery, countryside | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow oval | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 25 m | **Width:** 5 - 9 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour:** red | **Flowering period:** March - March | **Leaf colour:** dark green, buds pale green, underside white-grey | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, deltoid, big, leathery, leaf scented, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** yellow-green, grey-green | **Bark:** peeling, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey-green | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches, long shoots | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, highly branched, root suckers, roots push up surface

