

# Populus tremula 'Erecta'

## Columnar Swedish Aspen, Upright European Aspen

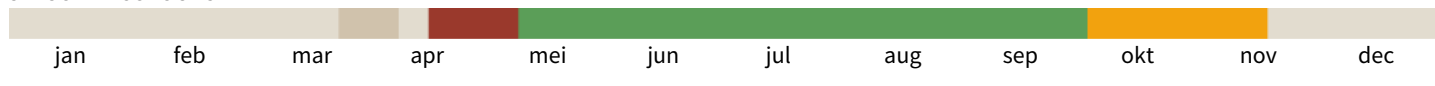


*Populus tremula* 'Erecta' is the columnar form of the European aspen. This cultivar was found in 1847 in Västra Götaland, Sweden. The narrow, columnar, dense to semi open crown reaches about fifteen meters in height and only two meters in width, making it one of the narrowest poplars. Unlike many columnar trees, it does not tend to splay open with age. This maximum height is typically achieved only at higher latitudes.

There are several clones of *Populus tremula* 'Erecta' in cultivation that mainly differ in bark color, ranging from dark green to gray green. The matte green, rounded leaves have a long, flat petiole that produces the characteristic rattling sound. The underside of the leaf is more blue toned than the upper surface. The columnar aspen emerges in spring with bronze tinted foliage and turns brilliant yellow to orange in autumn. The selection 'Erecta' flowers in March and April with inconspicuous light gray, pendulous catkins. The tree is male and therefore does not produce seeds after flowering.

As a young tree, *Populus tremula* 'Erecta' is highly wind resistant. The selection does not become very old, with an average lifespan of around eighty years, but its narrow, stable form makes it widely applicable and an attractive choice. One drawback is that this aspen also produces root suckers. In terms of crown shape, it is suitable for planting near buildings, but its root system makes this less ideal. *Populus tremula* 'Erecta' can be used on all soil types, preferably in a sunny to lightly shaded location.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, feathered trees

### USE

**Location:** avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, countryside, bioswale, coastal area | **Pavement:** none

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** columnar | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 10 - 15 m | **Width:** 1 - 2 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 2A - 6B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** butterflies | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to short-term flooding

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour:** pale grey | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, matt green, underside blue-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, orbicular, matt polished, dentate, undulate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow, yellow-orange, orange | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** dark green, grey-green, pale grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** yellow-brown | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, central root, root suckers, roots push up surface,

