

Botanical Name: Populus trichocarpa

Common Name: Black cottonwood

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, mostly single-trunked tree which becomes both tall and broadly spreading with age; canopy is oval or pyramidal in youth, eventually rounded at maturity; gray, furrowed bark with age

Height 30-60'(150') Spread 1/2-2/3 Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates partial

Soil sandy, fast-draining moist soils preferred; tolerates most

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-7,8-21); thrives in hot interior valleys

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate (somewhat crowded at branch tips); ovate 2-5" long, with finely serrate margin; apex somewhat acuminate

Flowers plants are dioecious: male catkins 2-3" long, falling early; female catkins 2-4" long, hanging on branch

Fruit cottony seed masses, released from female trees

Propagation: seed (stratify); hardwood cuttings

Usage: a large, fast-growing shade tree for warm locations; has a very invasive root system - avoid using in small areas; suckers develop from roots in heavy soils; best for rustic, informal landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering likes regular, deep watering; plants can be kept much smaller if given only an occasional soaking

Fertilizing little is needed after established

Pruning head high and develop scaffold structure; head back & thin

Pests/Diseases bark-boring and wood-boring beetles; termites; leaf miners

Special Conditions

Origin: Western U.S. Family: Salicaceae