

## AVAILABILITY

Imperial' Carolina poplar is a clone-propagated cultivar. NRCS maintains foundation stock at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center in East Lansing, MI. It is now available from most commercial nurseries in the Midwest.

For more information on where you can buy 'Imperial' and how to use and plant it, please contact your local NRCS Service Center.

## ADAPTATION

Imperial' grows very well in somewhat sandy soils with adequate moisture throughout the Great Lakes region. It does well wherever other poplar trees are common.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Plant Materials website at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on using plants to solve conservation problems.

### USDA-NRCS

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## 'IMPERIAL' CAROLINA POPLAR



## Rose Lake Plant Materials Center

*East Lansing, Michigan*

# 'IMPERIAL' CAROLINA POPLAR

'Imperial' Carolina poplar (*Populus X canadensis* Moench) is a tall fast-growing tree shaped somewhat like a pyramid. It is especially suited for use in windbreaks around orchards because it is deciduous and does not interfere with air circulation in the spring. It can also be grown for pulpwood and timber.



Twenty year old 'Imperial' Carolina poplar

## DESCRIPTION

'Imperial' is a hybrid that reaches a height of 50-80 feet. Its yellow-gray bark becomes ridged toward the base of the tree. The twigs are somewhat angular and smooth and the buds are large and resinous. The tree's wide smooth leaves are rounded at the base. Its branches curve upward, and mature 'Imperial' poplars are narrow. Because 'Imperial' is a male hybrid, it does not produce the irritating cottony substance common to many poplar trees.

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center developed 'Imperial' from cuttings taken from established plantings at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center in Missouri. The Natural Resources Conservation Service obtained the original rooted cuttings in 1955 from the Andrews Nursery in Faribault, MN.



'Imperial' Carolina poplar windbreak

## ESTABLISHMENT

In the temperate zone, 'Imperial' should generally be planted in the spring as soon as frost is out of the ground. Planting should be completed by May 15 or Jun 1, depending on the location.

The maximum spacing between plantings should be 10 to 23 feet. One year old rooted stock is suitable for mechanical planting.

To ensure establishment, cultivate the plantings to control weeds. Care must be taken to prevent damage by rodents and other animals. Deer may be particularly troublesome because they use 'Imperial' for browse.

Roots from 'Imperial' can cause problems for underground drains and sewer pipes. Do not plant trees within 100 feet of any drain or sewer pipe. It is not recommended to plant 'Imperial' in urban locations. Laws may, in fact, prohibit its use in some areas.

