



Eastern Cottonwood

Image: Matt Lavin - Wikimedia Commons



Sources:
www.thoughtco.com
<https://leafyplace.com/cottonwood-trees-facts-types>
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

Did you know?

The seed capsules of the female produce silky white hairs when they split open.



For many people, the fluff from cottonwood trees is a nuisance. Some people describe the tree as the most hated tree in America. The light white fluffy fibers can accumulate in yards, get into homes, block drains and gutters, and clog up filters.

Indigenous Uses:

Cottonwoods were important to Native Americans who used all parts of the tree.

Their trunks were used as dugout canoes.

The bark provided forage for horses and a bitter, medicinal tea for their owners.

Sweet sprouts and inner bark were a food source for both humans and animals.

The trees also served as trail markers and meeting places for both Native Americans and early European settlers.

Family: *Salicaceae*

Genus: *Populus*

Botanic name: *Populus deltoides*

The common name of cottonwood comes from the seeds that contain hairs that resemble cotton when open

Also known as: The Necklace Poplar, Cottonwood Poplar

Origin: The cottonwood poplar is native to North America, growing throughout the eastern, central, and southwestern United States as well as the southern Canadian prairies, the southernmost part of eastern Canada, and north-eastern Mexico.

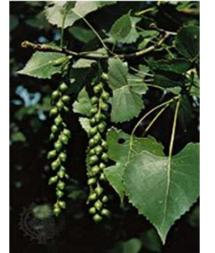
There are only a few species of poplar trees that are classified as cottonwoods. The three main species are *Populus deltoides* (Eastern Cottonwood), *Populus fremontii* (Fremont's Cottonwood), and the *Populus nigra* (Black Poplar).

Habitat: The Eastern Cottonwood is one of the largest North American hardwood trees. The trees like wet conditions and are relatively hardy, even in areas that see temporary flooding. They can grow up to 5m a year in central areas of Mississippi.



Description: Large deciduous tree up to 20 – 60m, growing about 1.5m per year over 20 years. The bark is silvery-white, smooth or lightly fissured when young, becoming dark grey and deeply fissured on old trees. Leaves are triangular about 10 cm long; in cold climates they turn into beautiful autumn colours.

Propagation and cultivation: Male-female catkins are produced on separate trees. On the Eastern Cottonwoods, males produce reddish catkins; females produce yellowish-green catkins containing multiple cottony seeds. Up to 40 million seeds can be released by a single tree each year.



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Uses: Cottonwood is used to make storage boxes and crates, paper, matchsticks, and plywood. It is easy to carve, making it popular with artisans as well. Herbalists also use the buds and bark of cottonwood to treat aches and pains, skin health and other uses.