

# BALSAM POPLAR



<p><b>A. Identification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>leaves</b>---alternate and are simple, finely serrated, shiny dark green ---the leaf stalk (petiole) is long with glands at the leaf base</li> <li>• <b>flowers</b>-male and female are hanging, long, pale green catkins with come out in May</li> <li>• <b>fruit</b>----is small, 2- valved, dry capsules which has many small seeds ----the males shed promptly and decay while the females shed after dispersal is complete</li> <li>• <b>bark</b>----greenish brown when young but becomes gray and deeply furrowed with age</li> <li>• <b>wood</b>---is light, soft, and low in strength and it is white to grayish brown in color</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Distribution / Location: from Alaska to Labrador and Newfoundland</b></p>
<p><b>C. Habitat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• found mostly in river valleys and also on moist, rich, low-lying ground</li> <li>• grows in pure stands or mixed stands with balsam fir, black spruce, white spruce, and white birch</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Growing characteristics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medium-sized trees grow up to 25 m high and 50 cm in diameter and up to 70 years old</li> <li>• often is the largest tree in the north and west parts of its range</li> </ul>
<p><b>E. Reproduction:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• production begins at about 8 years with a good crop every year</li> <li>• dispersal is by wind before leaves come out and within 200 m of the parent tree</li> <li>• seeds remain viable 2-4 weeks but will begin growing upon landing on a suitable, moist, mineral soil</li> <li>• vegetative reproduction can come from root suckers, stumps, sprouts, stems,</li> </ul>