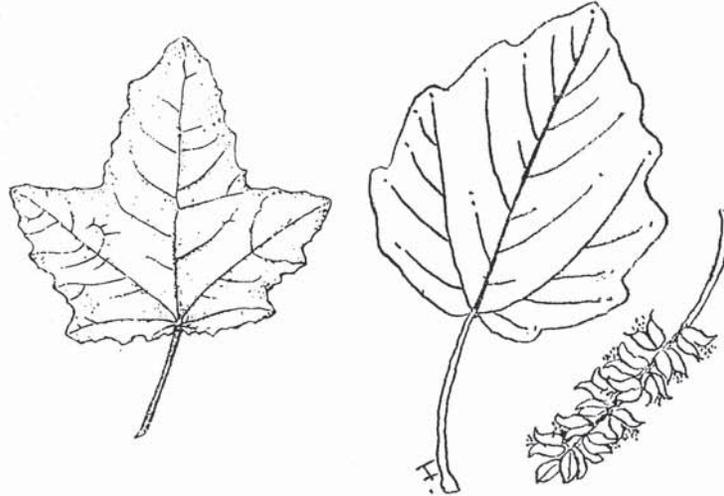


14. WHITE POPLAR*

Populus alba L.; silver poplar.

Medium-sized to large introduced tree 60 ft (18 m) high and 2 ft (0.6 m) in diameter, much branched, with broad rounded or irregular open crown, spreading by sprouts from roots. **Twigs** slender, densely white hairy when young. **Buds** conical pointed, densely white hairy, with several scales.



Leaves ovate, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -4 in (6-10 cm) long and nearly as broad, mostly 3- or 5-lobed and maplelike, blunt-pointed with scattered small teeth, notched or rounded at base, *dark green above*, beneath *densely white hairy* and feltlike, turning reddish in autumn. Leafstalks long, white hairy.

Flowers many in drooping narrow catkins $1\frac{1}{2}$ -3 in (4-7.5 cm) long, densely white hairy, male and female on different trees in early spring before leaves.

Seed capsules many in drooping clusters, egg-shaped, $\frac{3}{16}$ in (5 mm) long, with many cottony seeds, in spring.

Bark whitish gray, smooth, becoming blackish, rough, thick, and deeply furrowed.

Wood light yellow brown with yellowish white sapwood, diffuse porous, fine-textured, moderately lightweight (sp. gr. .56) moderately soft, tough. In Europe used for poles, posts, pulpwood, boxes and crates, veneer, millwork, and turnery.

Uncommon, planted in shelterbelts and for shade and ornament, persisting at old homesites and escaping from cultivation, scattered across Okla. including panhandle. Cultivated over U.S. and in s. Canada, spreading from roots, escaping, and becoming naturalized along roadsides and fencerows. Native of Europe and Asia and introduced probably in colonial times. Zone 3.

White poplar may become an undesirable weed, spreading by roots, which may damage drains and sewers. Short-lived. Silver poplar, a clone with maplelike leaves, is tolerant of city smoke, but its leaves become dirty from dust. Bolleana poplar is another clone with narrow columnar crown and leaves green beneath.

Another introduced poplar is: 158. Lombardy poplar, *Populus nigra* L. 'Italica', page 189.