

# Populus alba

## COMMON NAMES

white poplar

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree to approx. 25m high, usu. spreading, suckering profusely. Bark grey, rather smooth to shallowly fissured. Shoots white-tomentose, terete. Buds white, with appressed tomentum, not viscid. Young leaves not aromatic. Petiole 1.5~5cm long, white-tomentose, slightly compressed. Lamina on vegetative shoots 3~10 x 2~9.5cm, deltoid, with 3~5 lobulate or toothed primary lobes; lamina on adult shoots smaller, ovate, ovate-oblong or suborbicular, lobed or strongly toothed, always white, loosely tomentose below and at first above, later glabrous or nearly so on upper surface, green and shining; margin lacking translucent band; base truncate, rounded or subcordate, glandless; apex obtuse or rounded. Catkins female, pendent, 2~8cm long at antithesis. Rachis villous. Bracts 3~3.5mm long, membranous, shining, brown in upper part, incised to shallowly toothed, prominently long-ciliate. Cup-shaped disc .5~.8mm deep, glabrous or somewhat villous; margin slightly sinuate. Ovary glabrous; stigmas slender, whitish. Capsule containing dense, white cotton-like hairs, esp. towards base. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

White undersides of leaves (Thompson & Reeves 1994).

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## GENUS

Populus

## FAMILY

Salicaceae

## AUTHORITY

Populus alba L.

## FLOWERING

September

## YEAR NATURALISED

1904

## ORIGIN

Eurasia. Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



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## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial.

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

**This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC.** 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

## NVS CODE

POPALB

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/populus-alba/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026