

EASTERN COTTONWOOD

Populus deltoides



North American Insects and Spiders / Tree Encyclopedia

Mature Height	Up to 100 Feet	Soil Type	Deep Moist Soils
Mature Spread	60 Feet	Flower Color	Green
Mature Form	Broad vase shape	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Fast	Fall Color	Golden Yellow to Brown
Sun Exposure	Full to Part Sun	Zones	3-9
Soil Moisture	Moist or Wet		

Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*, can be either male or female. It is the fluffy white seed produced by the females during early summer that give the tree its name. These seeds break apart and the 'cotton' can become a nuisance. It is one of the largest trees in North America, up to 100 feet high with massive trunks over 5 feet in diameter. Cottonwoods can live over 100 years. The bark is very thick and deeply cut into blocks. Young trees are often cut by beaver and even large trees show evidence of gnawing. Cottonwoods are related to poplars and aspens, with which they share the same shaking, shimmering leaves. Leaves are heart shaped and flutter in slight breezes, but the buds are sticky in the spring and can be messy near homes. Pioneers quickly learned that a stand of cottonwoods indicated water fairly close to the land's surface—an important consideration for settlers of the arid West. Cottonwood is considered one of the least desirable native trees for yards because of its messy characteristics.



State Symbols USA



Ohio Department of Natural Resources



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