Lombardy poplar
Populus nigra

Description

Introduced to North America for its fast growth and usefulness as a short-lived screen or windbreak.

Habit

Deciduous, very slender upright crown (column-like), may reach up to 60 ft in height with only a spread of 10-15 ft, upward bending branches start close to the ground.
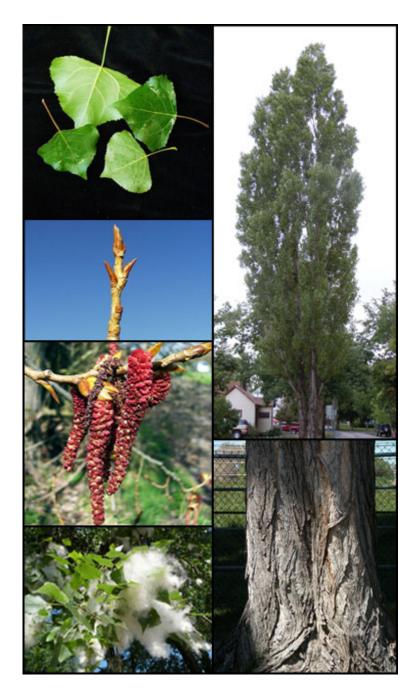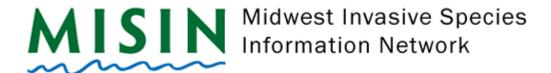
Leaves

Alternate, simple, broadly deltoid (triangular), 2-4 in long, finely serrate-crenate, straight across the base, petiole flattened, shiny dark green in color above and paler beneath.

Stems

Moderate to stout, light brown to yellow-brown, swollen at leaf scars; large, sticky, reddish brown conical buds.

Flowers

Dioecious, in the variety "Italica" only male trees are seen, male flowers are slender, reddish to yellow green in color, hanging catkins, 2-3 in long, appear in early spring before the leaves.

Fruits and Seeds

Hanging cluster of light brown capsules containing numerous small fluffy seeds. Variety "Italica" is not known to produce fruit.

Habitat

Native to Africa, Asia and Europe. The variety "Italica" is native to the Mediterranean region. Grows in full sun; clay, sand, loam, alkaline, acidic, occasionally wet or well-drained soil; high drought tolerance.

Reproduction

By bare root or cuttings.

Similar

Eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoides); Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

These trees are very susceptible to disease, such as stem canker disease.

Credits

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