

LAND MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION TREES

Crows Nest Poplar (NZ 5010) (*Populus deltoides* x *P. nigra* x *P. nigra*)

Main Points

- Has a form similar to Lombardy Poplar
- Is moderately drought tolerant
- The best poplar for wind breaks
- Attractive foliage



Crows Nest Poplar characterised by its many upward growing small branches.

Photo courtesy of HortResearch

Description

'Crows Nest' is a narrow formed tree with a very straight main leader. It is similar to the Lombardy Poplar with its many small branches growing upward and close to the stem. However, at maturity it may not be quite as narrow as Lombardy. The leaves flush reddish bronze in late September, contrasting sharply with the light coloured bark and giving a very attractive appearance.

Site tolerances

'Crows Nest' was bred for use in horticultural shelterbelts, but it has been found to grow vigorously as a soil conservation pole on hill country. It has established and grown well through a first dry summer on hill country, but also performed well in wet and windy conditions. It appears to be at least as tolerant of drought conditions as 'Veronese' Poplar.

Uses

Shelter - The narrow habit and fast growth of 'Crows Nest' Poplar makes it very well suited for both horticultural and farm wind breaks. On a farm scale, trees may be planted 3-4m apart with little or no maintenance required. Trees in a horticultural wind break may be planted about 1m apart and trimmed to manage height and density.

Soil Conservation - The apparent drought and wind tolerance of 'Crows Nest', makes it a desirable tree for hill country soil conservation planting. Poles are usually very straight and easy to handle.

Some landowners prefer the narrow formed tree because it creates less pasture shading.

Establishment

It establishes very well from poles and cuttings. Although it seems to tolerate drought better than many other poplars, it responds exceptionally well to moisture.

Management

'Crows Nest' is strongly leader dominant and should not need form pruning. However, due to its many branches it is unlikely to be practical to prune for timber.

Pests and Diseases

It has a medium level of resistance to the common leaf rust and leaf spot diseases. However, it is considerably more resistant to leaf rust disease than Lombardy Poplar. It is susceptible to possum damage.

For further information

For further information on Conservation Trees or Sustainable Land Management issues ask for the other titles in this series or contact Land Management Officers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice:

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