

Fact Sheet

‘Plummer’

Populus angustifolia × *P. yunnanensis*
NZ 5040



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

‘Plummer’ is a New Zealand-bred poplar hybrid cross of *P. angustifolia*, a balsam poplar species from western North America, and *P. yunnanensis*, a balsam poplar species from south-western China.

Characteristics

‘Plummer’ is a narrow-crowned poplar clone with dense light branching, and a straight stem, with good apical dominance. The tree stems have a wood basic density of 369 kg m⁻³. It is a female poplar clone, with bitter leaves that are resistant to possum browsing.

The leaves are deltoid or triangular in shape, and rounded at the base, with a green upper and glaucous lower surface. The leaf midrib and lateral veins are green, and the petiole is red. The leaves are resistant to infection by *Melampsora larici-populina* leaf rust fungi. They are retained late on the trees and have a yellow colour in autumn.

The poplar clone is named after Perry Plummer, a respected dry land plant species specialist at the USDA Intermountain Research Station in Utah, USA, who collaborated with the Soil Conservation Centre at Aokautere, near Palmerston North, and provided seed of *P. angustifolia* from Utah, USA.

Uses

‘Plummer’ is suitable for soil conservation use as a spaced-planted tree on sites with good soil moisture. It has performed well on peat soils in the Horowhenua district of the North Island. At 12 years old, the tree shown in the photograph had a height of 23 m, stem diameter at breast height (1.4 m) of 44 cm, and a crown width of 8 m.



Twelve-year-old tree of ‘Plummer’ poplar growing on peat soils near Levin in the Horowhenua district.



Leaf of the ‘Plummer’ poplar clone, showing the upper (left) and lower (right) surfaces.

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