

# *Populus x berolinensis*

## Berlin Poplar



*Populus x berolinensis* (Berlin poplar) was discovered in 1865 in the Berlin Botanical Garden as a spontaneous cross between *Populus nigra* 'Italica' and *Populus laurifolia*. The hybrid grows a straight, continuous trunk that barely bifurcates. Its steep upright branches create a columnar crown that turns into an oval at an older age. The bottom branches hang down, giving the tree a width of 10 metres. It reaches a height of about 25 metres.

As one of the earliest trees to bud, *Populus x berolinensis* is a striking image in the spring. Its ovoid leaves are bright green with a grey-green underside. It has a sharp top. Its autumn colours, with green and yellow hues, are not particularly striking. There are male and female trees, both of which bloom green catkins. The female trees disperse cotton-like seeds from the capsules.

The Berlin poplar is very good at tolerating wind, air pollution and drought, and does not require much of the soil. The tree does prefer moist soil. *Populus x berolinensis* is a perfect tree for both urban and rural uses, e.g. in parks and central reservations, but also as an avenue tree in a broader profile. The species is relatively sensitive to leaf spot and prone to poplar rust, but not very sensitive to bacterial canker. The trunk grows shoots until it is very old.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees

### USE

**Location:** avenue, park, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, windbreak | **Pavement:** none, open | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 20 - 25 m | **Width:** 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 3A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind, slightly tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour:** green | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** buds yellow, bright green, underside grey-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow, green | **Fruits:** rarely fruits, capsule, pappuses | **Fruit colour:** pale grey | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** yellow-brown | **Twigs:** hairy, vertical branches, pendulous | **Root system:** deep, shallow, extensive, root suckers

