

Fact Sheet

'Braaksma'

Populus deltoides x P nigra

NZ 5038



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

Characteristics

'Braaksma' leaves have a straight base and serrated edge. Juvenile leaves have a red stem. 'Braaksma' has light coloured smooth bark and inverted 'v' shaped grooves under branch bases. 'Braaksma' branches are steeply angled. 'Braaksma' has lighter branching than Veronese and they do not occur in whorls as strongly as Veronese.

'Braaksma' has a narrow crown and good form. In juvenile form it is very similar to Veronese but in maturity takes on it's distinguishing characteristics.



Uses

'Braaksma' is used for soil conservation. It is good in windy conditions but less drought tolerant than Veronese. It is most appropriately placed mid-slope, similar to Weraiti and Otahoua.

History

'Braaksma' was a trial clone planted on Highden just out of Masterton in 1997/98 as part of a mix of newer varieties to test in the Wairarapa. It was picked out as a good clone and gene tested in 2019 to determine whether it was a new variety or one already in the collection. The gene testing determined it was genetically similar to, but different from, Veronese and was a new variety. This clone was originally known as 'Highden', after the property on which it was discovered. It has been renamed in honour of Stan Braaksma and his work in the field for over 40 years.



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