

Fact Sheet

'Pakai'

Populus deltoides × *P. trichocarpa*

NZ 5009



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Pakai' is a New Zealand-bred poplar hybrid cross of *P. deltoides*, a black poplar species from eastern North America, and *P. trichocarpa*, a balsam poplar species from western North America.

Characteristics

'Pakai' is a large-crowned poplar clone with large branching, and a straight stem. The tree stems have a wood basic density of 377 kg m⁻³. It is a male poplar clone, with bitter leaves that are resistant to possum browsing. It has the habit of suckering where there is no grazing.

The leaves are deltoid or triangular in shape, and rounded at the base, with a dark-green upper and light-green lower surface. The leaf midrib, lateral veins, and petiole are red.

The leaves are resistant to infection by *Melampsora laricipopulina* leaf rust fungi.

It has performed well on dry summer pastoral hill country in the Manawatu region with sandy loam soils and 1100-1200mm median annual total rainfall, and in the Otago region with silt loam soils and 700-800 mm median annual total rainfall.

Uses

'Pakai' is suitable for soil conservation use as a spacedplanted tree, particularly in drier areas. At 37 years old, the trees in a field trial in the Manawatu region had an average height of 34 m, stem diameter at breast height (1.4 m) of 105 cm, and crown width of 26 m.



Thirty-seven-year-old tree of the 'Pakai' poplar growing on a farm in the Manawatu region.



Leaf of the 'Pakai' poplar clone, showing the upper (left) and lower (right) surfaces.

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