

Fact Sheet

'Selwyn'

Populus deltoides x *P. nigra*

NZ 5016



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Selwyn' is a *P. x euramericana* hybrid, resulting from a 1980 NZ cross between *P. deltoides* and *Populus nigra* 'Italica'. It was first released commercially in 1995.

Characteristics

'Selwyn' leaves are roughly heart-shaped, similar to 'Veronese', with a straight base and a slightly undulating leaf margin. The leaves are dark green above and light green below.

'Selwyn' is a female tree with a very narrow form, light branching, and sometimes a wavy stem growth due to wind.

Uses

'Selwyn' is suitable for general soil conservation use. It has excellent drought resistance and is typically used on slopes, in similar zones to 'Argyle' and 'Crowsnest'. It can be brittle.

'Selwyn' has less rust resistance than the other *P. x euramericana* hybrids. 'Selwyn' is possum palatable.

Performance

Growth rates of 'Selwyn' are generally slightly lower than the *P. x euramericana* hybrids 'Weraiti' and 'Otahua', but are comparable to 'Fraser' and 'Dudley'. In a Wairarapa trial (ann. rainfall 850 mm), 'Selwyn' at age 12 had an average diameter (dbh) of 28 cm (c.f. 'Weraiti' 36 cm, 'Kawa' 27 cm), and an average height of 16 m (c.f. 'Weraiti' 17.9 m, 'Kawa' 15.4 m). At the same age in Manawatu (ann. rainfall 1200 mm) and at age 13 in Otago (ann. rainfall 600 mm), 'Selwyn' dbh averaged 25 cm and 19 cm respectively.

Whilst 'Selwyn' has slower height growth than the *P. x euramericana* hybrids 'Weraiti', and 'Dudley' in recent trials (Otago, Canterbury, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Te Kuiti and Auckland), it has the best survival rate, with deaths only numbering 4% of poles planted.



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