

Populus alba 'Nivea'

Snowy poplar



Populus alba 'Nivea' (Snowy poplar) is the cultivar most similar to the main species. In 1789, the selection was made at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew in England. It is a tree forming male cultivar, between 15 and 20 metres high and wide, with a round, semi-open crown.

The snowy poplar differs from the main species with its strong silver to white leaves; the white particularly stands out in the spring. That is where it gets its name the snowy poplar; the cultivar name 'Nivea' means snow-white. Not just the young, palmate lobate leaves are very white. On the older leaves, the underside stays felty white and hairy and the young twigs also have woolly, chalk-white hair. The tops of the leaves are green in the summer. They turn a striking yellow in autumn. *Populus alba* 'Nivea' blooms silver-grey catkins in March - April to develop the leaves.

The 'Nivea' cultivar easily takes root from a cutting and is therefore often used as a rootstock for *Populus x canescens*. The proper embedding with its own roots makes the snowy poplar very wind-proof and furthermore, the tree tolerates coastal winds and salt spray. That makes it suitable for use in dune planting, windbreaks and landscape planting. *Populus alba* 'Nivea' can be planted in any soil that is not too heavy, but does not tolerate pavement due to its shallow roots.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees

USE

Location: park, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, windbreak, coastal area | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting, Solid planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 15 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 3A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** butterflies | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, pendulous, small | **Flower colour:** silver | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** silver, underside felty white | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, dentate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** pale grey, black | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** grey | **Twigs:** hairy | **Root system:** shallow, root suckers,