

# *Populus trichocarpa* 'Blom'

## Black cottonwood 'Blom', western balsam-poplar 'Blom', California poplar 'Blom'



*Populus trichocarpa* 'Blom' (Western balsam poplar 'Blom') was selected in the Vancouver area from *Populus trichocarpa* by G. Blom. The species was distributed in the Netherlands by the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture (NAKB) from 1972 onwards. *Populus trichocarpa* 'Blom' has quite a straight trunk with an oval to wide oval crown on top. In young trees, the crown has dense branches; it opens up more later on. Despite steady growth, this cultivar stays a lot smaller than the main species and does not grow higher than 15 metres.

The cultivar is male and thus does not produce cotton-like seeds. *Populus trichocarpa* 'Blom' blooms red catkins in March. When the young, light-green leaves bud in April, they emit fragrance of a balsam. In the summer, the leaves are large, ovoid, leather-like and dark green with a white underside. Its autumn colour is an even yellow. It has long, steep upright branches. The tree grows shots on its smooth, peeling green-yellow to grey trunk.

*Populus trichocarpa* 'Blom' is very sensitive to wind and therefore requires a sheltered environment. E.g. in a park, large garden or forest area. It prefers moist, nutrient-rich, light to heavy soil. The cultivar was originally intended for log production and in clay soil, its growth is similar to that of *Populus x canadensis* 'Robusta'. It even grows better in light sand and loamy soil. *Populus trichocarpa* 'Blom' is very good at tolerating canker and reasonably good at tolerating Marssonina and rust.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees

### USE

**Location:** park, countryside | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide oval | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 12 - 15 m | **Width:** 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to short-term flooding

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, discrete, pendulous | **Flower colour:** red | **Flowering period:** March - March | **Leaf colour:** dark green, buds pale green, underside white-grey | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, deltoid, big, leathery, scented, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** grey-green | **Bark:** peeling, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey-green | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches, thickly branched, long shoots | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, highly branched, root suckers, roots push up surface

