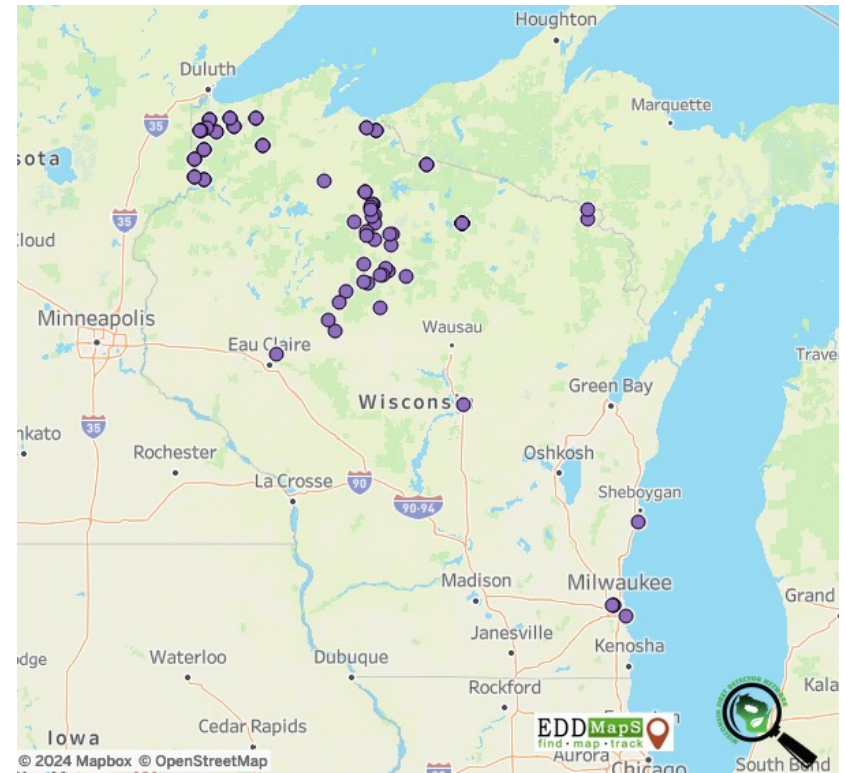


White poplar (*Populus alba*)



2003 © Peter M. Dziuk

- Large tree often forming large stands; leaves are woolly and white beneath
- Habitats it invades:
 - Roadsides
 - Grasslands
- Status
 - Wisconsin: Restricted
 - Not regulated in neighboring states



White poplar (*Populus alba*)



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Leaves alternate, simple

- 2-4" long, toothed, often lobed, but variable in shape
- Leaf undersides are covered with white, woolly hairs
- Bark is whitish or gray, developing diamond-shaped markings



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White poplar (*Populus alba*)



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Flower/fruit

- Flowers are small and insignificant, borne in catkins; April
- Male and female flowers are on separate plants
- Fruit is a capsule that releases many fluffy seeds



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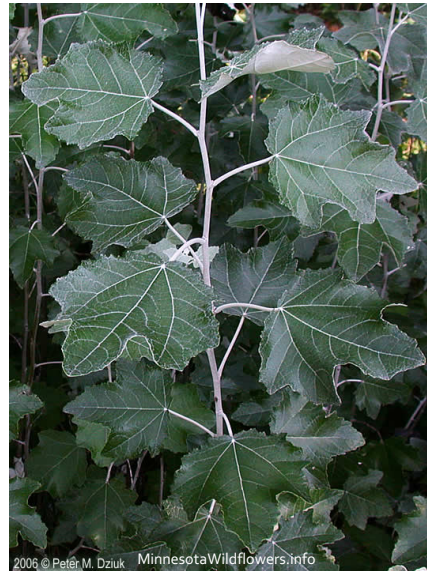
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White poplar look alike



White poplar (*Populus alba*) may be confused with other **native** *Populus* species. Its lobed leaves may cause it to be confused with some maples (*Acer* spp.). *Populus* species have **alternate branching** while *Acer* species have **opposite branching**; none of the maples in Wisconsin have leaves with woolly white hairs beneath.



White poplar's younger bark is smooth and grayish, similar to other poplar species. **Leaf shape is variable** from egg-shaped to lobed with 3-5 lobes. **Leaves are coarsely toothed.** The upper surface of leaves is dark green and shiny; the **lower surface is white from dense woolly hairs.**



Big-tooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*) has coarsely-toothed leaves that are egg to oval shaped and **never lobed**. They have **woolly hairs on both leaf surfaces when emerging** but **shed most of the hairs at maturity.**

Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*, not pictured) also has coarsely-toothed leaves, but the **leaves are smooth.**