

Populus alba 'Raket'

White poplar 'Raket'



Populus alba 'Raket' (White poplar 'Raket') originated in the Netherlands in 1956, and has been distributed by the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture since 1972. It is a male cultivar, and the name 'Raket' (Dutch for 'rocket') comes from the shape the tree has in its youth: a narrow, columnar habit with fast-growing steep vertical branches and a straight trunk. At an older age, the crown drops down and becomes broad and columnar, reaching up to 12 metres wide at heights of 20 metres. *Populus alba* 'Raket' grows better than the similarly columnar but now rarely cultivated *Populus alba* 'Pyramidalis'.

The columnar white poplar blooms silver-grey, male catkins on bare wood. There is no female growth, so *Populus alba* 'Raket' does not bear fruit. The leaves bud silver-white and turn green in the summer, with a felty white underside. Its autumn colour is yellow. Young **trees have a smooth**, dark grey-green bark, but it quickly becomes whiter and rough.

Populus alba 'Raket' is easy to strike and is therefore often used as a rootstock for *Populus x canescens*. The tree is suitable for general use, in parks, and also in public gardens and streets with an open and large soil surface area. The tree could push up dense pavement. The white poplar is very good at tolerating wind, coastal winds, air pollution and salt spray, but with its columnar shape, it is less suited to landscape planting and windbreaks. The tree grows in virtually all kinds of soil, with the exception of very poor or heavy types of soil.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, coastal area | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Solid planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: columnar, wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 3A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, 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, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour:** silver | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** green, underside felty white | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, underside hairy, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** grey-green, grey | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** hairy | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, root suckers,

