

Eastern Cottonwood

Populus deltoids

The Eastern Cottonwood is one of the largest North American “hardwood” trees. The tree has relatively soft wood. It is also one of the fastest growing with trees in ideal locals adding 10-15 feet of new growth in one year. The trees get their common name from their method of seeding. In the early summer female trees produce seeds attached to fluffy cotton-like strands that distribute the seeds far and wide on any wind available.

The Cottonwoods leaves are quite distinctive, being large and triangular with a coarsely toothed edge. Due to the leaf having a flat stem, the leaves give a distinctive quiver even in a slight breeze.

The Cottonwood tree naturally prefers locations along the muddy banks on the edges of streams and rivers.



Wildlife use its buds and leaves for food and hollow trunks for shelter



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