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Populus grandidentata

[Synonyms : *Populus grandidentata* var. *angustata*, *Populus grandidentata* var. *meridionalis*, *Populus grandidentata* var. *subcordata*]

LARGE-TOOTHED ASPEN is a deciduous tree. Native to eastern North America it has red male and green female hairy catkins.

It is also known as Aspen, Bigtooth aspen, Bigtoothed aspen, Canadian aspen, Canadian poplar, Great aspen, Largetooth aspen, Large-toothed poplar, Largetooth poplar, *Peuplier à grandes dents* (French), Poplar, and Popple.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

In Tennessee in the United States the tree has been declared of special concern in the wild.

Grandidentata is made up of Latin *grandis* (large) and *dens* (tooth) components.

The layer between the wood and the inner bark (known to botanists as cambium) was cooked by some of the North American Chippewa Indians who ate it a bit like eggs are eaten in the West today.

The Chippewa tribe harvested the wood for paper pulp.

Large-toothed aspen offered a source of medicine for one or two North American tribes. On the one hand some of the Cree used it to treat various period problems – and on the other they employed it for inducing abortions. Bark dust was put on itchy skin by Iroquois Indians, and members of the Malecite tribe suffering from loss of appetite were given a bark infusion.

The blackish-brown bark has been made into pellets as a supplement for cattle feed and also for use as fuel.

Authorities have noted that not only have the trees offered breeding territory for roughly 116 species of bird but they have also provided food for moose, some deer and beaver, as well as a particular kind of grouse known locally as ruffed grouse.

The lightweight light brown wood has been used for veneering, carving, pulp (paper) and manufacturing boarding, as well as for making ladders, hockey sticks, chopsticks, matches, woodenware and fruit boxes.

Medicinally, local herbalists have applied a root wash to stem excessive bleeding, and bark has been used for treatments for fever.