

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Populus heterophylla*

[Synonyms : *Populus argentea*]

**SWAMP COTTONWOOD** is a deciduous tree. Native to south-eastern United States it has drooping male and small spikes of female catkins .

It is also known as Bigleaf cottonwood, Black cottonwood, Black poplar, Cotton gum, Cotton tree, Cottonwood, Downy cottonwood, Downy poplar, River cottonwood, and Swamp poplar.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

In the United States the tree can no longer be found in the wild in Pennsylvania, is considered to be threatened in the wild in the State of New York and, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries is viewed as an endangered species in Connecticut and Michigan.

*Heterophylla* is derived from Greek *hetero-* (different) and *phyllo-* (leaf) components meaning ‘furnished with leaves of different shapes’.

This lightweight greyish-brown wood known as Black poplar has been used for turning and building interiors, and manufacturing pulp (paper) – as well as for making furniture, boxes and crates.