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Populus x canescens

[Synonyms : *Populus alba*, *Populus alba v canescens*, *Populus hybrida*, *Populus steiniana*]

GREY POPLAR is a deciduous tree. Native from Russia (especially Georgia) and Iran to central Europe, it has reddish-purple male and green female catkins.

It is also known as *Gråpoppel* (Danish, Swedish), Gray poplar, *Gryspopulier* (Afrikaans), *Peuplier grisard* (French), Poplar, *Topol šedý* (Czech), and *Vallpopulier* (Afrikaans).

The male catkins are coated with yellow pollen.

In South Africa the tree is viewed as invasive.

Canescens means ‘with off-white or greyish-white hairs’.

This wood has been used for joinery, and has been burnt as fuel. It has also been made into furniture, crates and matchboxes.

Grey poplar was introduced to South Africa in the 1920s where it was intended for cultivation in areas suffering from soil erosion and for its wood.