



Trembling Aspen

Populus tremuloides



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General: A deciduous tree up to 30 m tall.

Leaves & Twigs: Trembling aspen have a smooth trunk with light green or pale bark. Leaves are small (3–7 cm long), light to medium green in colour, round with a small, sharp tip.

Flowers & Fruits: Male and female flowers are found in catkins, which look like soft caterpillars hanging from twigs before leaves emerge. Male flowers are fuzzy catkins with red/pink pollen sacs that release pollen into the air. Female catkins turn green and lengthen as seed capsules form, which later release fluffy white seeds.

Habitat: Found in well drained moist areas throughout Newfoundland and southern Labrador (most common in central Newfoundland).

Blooming Time: Early May to early June

How to Observe: Tag a male tree for observation.

First Bloom: When male catkins start shedding pollen in at least three places on the observed tree.

Mid Bloom: When half the male catkins have lengthened and are shedding pollen.

Leaf Out: When the first leaves have emerged and unfolded completely (three places).

Tip: To check to see if tree is male or female cut short branches that have big catkin producing buds in late winter and place them in water. Watch catkins to see if they drop yellow pollen (male).