

Katepwa Poplar

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Poplars are valuable trees with multiple uses with important environmental roles, for example:

- < In shelterbelts they reduce wind erosion and increase crop yields
- < In riparian areas poplar roots intercept nutrient runoff
- < Poplars store carbon thereby reducing greenhouse gases
- < High water and nutrient uptake by poplar is useful for utilization of agricultural, municipal and industrial waste water.
- < Strategically planted poplars in saline areas can help to manage ground water levels.
- < Poplars strategically planted around livestock operations can intercept air-borne particulates (odours)
- < High biomass production from poplar makes them an attractive fibre source for bio-energy and wood based products.

Katepwa was selected by Bill Schroeder in 1986. Its selection was based on superior crown form, fast growth, hardiness, male (no seed fluff) and freedom from common insect and disease pests. The original tree is alive and growing well. Katepwa has been field tested in Saskatchewan at Indian Head, Meadow Lake, Prince Albert and Saskatoon where it is consistently among the top performing poplars. Katepwa was developed using traditional breeding methods where the best trees are selected from large genetically diverse populations.

Description

Katepwa is a large semi-upright, male, fast growing tree. It has a semi-upright crown and is field tolerant to the common poplar diseases. After 10 years growth in a shelterbelt, Katepwa averaged 10 m in height.

The original tree is 38 years old, free of disease and growing vigorously.

Extreme cold hardiness and resistant to poplar bud gall mite and is tolerant to most common poplar diseases. It is adapted to variable climate conditions, particularly early fall and late spring frosts.

Katepwa roots easily from hardwood cuttings. Using this propagation method we are able to reproduce genetic duplicates (clones) of the selected tree.

Katepwa differs from other hybrid poplars by combining rapid growth rate with excellent cold hardiness

The name Katepwa was chosen by the Indian Head Elementary Grade 3 class in recognition of Katepwa lake in the Qu'Appelle valley