

LAND MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION TREES

Veronese poplar (*PN 870 Populus deltoides x nigra*)

Main points

- good form
- fast growth
- wind resistant
- drought tolerant spectacular leaf colour at flushing prone to leaf rust (plant in summer dry districts) moderately palatable to possums

Description

'Veronese' is straight stemmed and narrow crowned. The leaves flush dark reddish bronze in mid-September. Growth rate is fast and its maximum height is 30-40 metres. It is a relatively new clone in Hawke's Bay.

Site tolerances

This clone tolerates both wind and drought better than most other poplars.

Uses

Soil conservation - With its potential to establish and grow well on slightly harder, more exposed sites than other poplar clones, 'Veronese' will be a useful soil conservation tree.

Shelter and amenity Being wind tolerant and upright in form, it is suitable for shelter belts. The spectacular leaf flushing in spring gives it landscape appeal.

Establishment

Establishes well from poles and cuttings, however, smaller cuttings (less than 1.8m) need good soil moisture and weed control for the first year.

Management

Strongly leader dominant but may form additional leaders which should be pruned off. If managing trees for timber production, this clone may need regular re pruning.

Pests and diseases

Very susceptible to several types of leaf rust disease and is therefore not recommended for high (summer) rainfall areas. It grows well, however, in districts with low summer humidity. It is also palatable to possums but is less palatable than most willows.

For further information

For information on planting poplars or willows, ask for the other titles in this series or contact Hawke's Bay Regional Council Land Management Officers for advice.

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