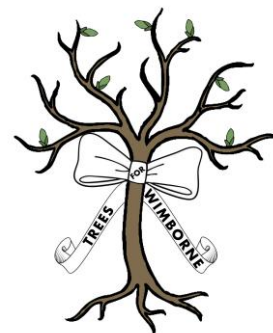


Identification of Native Black Poplars: the countries rarest timber tree



Background:

There are approximately 50 recorded Native Black Poplars in Dorset. These are mainly along the Stour Valley Catchment and close to main roads or ROW. We have now located and tested most of these. But we believe that there are more out there. You might see one of these trees when you are out walking or working.

Why Now

We need to look now because many trees are very old and the genetic diversity that they carry may be lost. We can test the trees and then grow them on for further propagation and dissemination.

Where to find them

They are found in similar places to Willows, by rivers, along ditches, around ponds and wet areas.

What to look for

Native Black Poplars are difficult to identify even by expert's and any hopefuls will need to be "authenticated" by DNA analysis. But many trees can be eliminated by a visual inspection.

- ❖ They are large trees growing up to 30 metres
- ❖ they may shed limbs like crack willows
- ❖ the lower branches typically droop downwards.
- ❖ They often but not always lean
- ❖ They may layer and form large stools

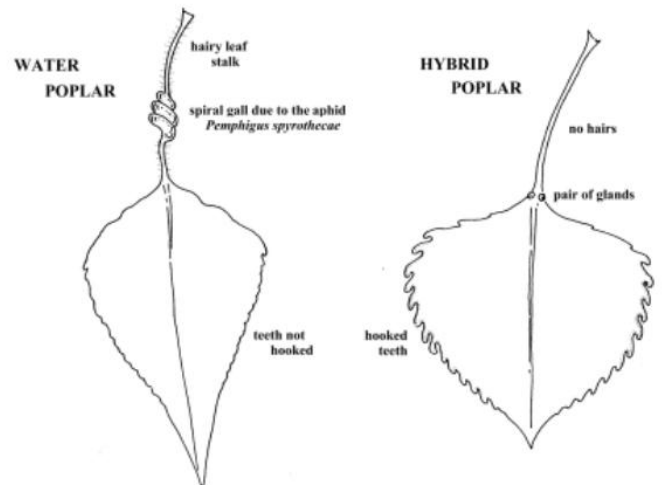




- ❖ As they age the bark becomes deeply fissured
- ❖ They develop burrs on the trunk and the twigs are grey coloured and lumpy



- ❖ The leaves are diamond shaped and shiny green
- ❖ Unlike other Poplar species the leaves are longer than wide
- ❖ They may have red spiral galls
- ❖ In spring the petioles and main veins are furry, but this is hard to see



The leaf shape is important in identification



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