

Trembling Aspen

Populus tremuloides

-The Trembling Aspen (a.k.a. Poplar) is an extremely abundant tree in Langlade County. It can be considered either a medium or large tree. Trembling Aspen can grow to heights of 75 feet tall and have a diameter of 18 inches.

-Trembling Aspen is a very shade intolerant tree; therefore you have to plant it in full sun. This is one of the fastest growing native trees that you can plant.

-Trembling Aspen was once considered a weed, but now America gets the majority of its paper from it.

-This tree is hugely important to Wisconsin wildlife! In fact, the two trees that give Wisconsin wildlife the majority of their food are aspens and oaks.

-Got kids? This is a cool absolutely free science experiment that you can teach kids. Take a Trembling Aspen leaf in one hand and a leaf from darn near any other tree in the other. Twirl each leaf stem between your thumb and forefinger and see what one is easier to twirl. The Trembling Aspen is going to be harder to twirl because its petiole, or stem, is flattened, and not cylindrical like most other leaves. But why is it flattened? It is flattened because the wood of Trembling Aspen is very weak, so the leaves of this tree evolved flattened stems to act as mini shock absorbers, thereby taking the pressure off of the wood and lessening the likelihood that the branch will break. The next time you are sitting in your lawn chair on a calm day enjoying a beer, look at the leaves on different trees. When all of the other trees leaves are still, and Trembling Aspen will still be trembling, thus the name.



**Nor rural sounds alone, but rural sounds,
Exhilarate the spirit, and restore
The tone of languid Nature.**

-William Cowper