

Trees

Cottonwood Grows Fast, But Is Short-Lived

Leaves Are Easy To Identify

Sunday, May 1, 1955

Santa Cruz Sentinel-News-17

Cottonwood, Fast-Growing, Hardy, Still Rates As Pest

Editor's note—Here is another in a series of short articles on the trees which grow wild in Santa Cruz county.

By Wally Trabing

This is the Fremont cottonwood (*Populus Fremontii*). It is akin to the poplars. It's a local native and can be found, like many fishermen in this area, lining the streams, or at least not far away.

It ranges from the Sacramento valley and inner coast ranges of northern California to Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

The poplars as a whole are very much a part of that great stretch of forest in Norway and Russia which is larger in magnitude than the Pacific ocean, according to "The Story of Trees" by Dr. Ferdinand C. Lane.

Poplar type trees like the cottonwood grow fast, but the limbs are brittle, and the roots make their way into sewers and pipes and uproot sidewalks. It has the dubious commercial distinction of being easily shredded into excelsior. Poplar woods are used for paper making.

In legend the poplar trees have their place. It is said that the three daughters of the sun were transformed into poplars and is related by Ovid in his *Metamorphoses*: "Their legs grow fixed as trunks, their arms as boughs, extend, and upward 'round them creeps the bark."

Getting more particular, the cottonwood was first reported by John Charles Fremont, who explored the southwest, according to Peattie's "A Natural History of Western Trees." This tree is inclined to fork near the base into several equal trunks.

It grows from 50 to 100 feet high and enlarges up to four feet around. In spring the catkins ripen on naked limbs.

When these fall it makes a miniature snow storm, the tiny feathery catkins littering the area. The leaves drop in the winter.

The tree is often invaded by mistletoe. Twigs are constantly falling off.

ORDER IS FILED

An order has been filed authorizing the sale of six shares of Bank of America, National Trust and Savings association, and 10½ shares of Transamerica corporation from the estate of Maria Negri.



These leaves are different enough to be easy to identify. They are from the Fremont cottonwood, which is related to the poplars. They are broader than long and triangular in shape. The leaf-stalks are flattened so

that even a light breeze sets the leaves to spinning. Flowers are like small crowns and the seeds float away on the wind. Flower sexes appear on different trees.

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PETITION IS FILED

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