

# Bigtooth Aspen – *Populus grandidentata*

## Facts About

Big-toothed poplar, a tree of sandy uplands in the northeastern states, is so-named for its leaves which have large teeth on the margin. It grows and spreads rapidly through abundant suckers, and is thus a useful species for colonizing newly-logged sites and sheltering slower-growing tree species. Its wood is most commonly used for pulp, but its distinctive grain and light heartwood make it a lovely veneer. Moose and ruffed grouse find it an important winter food source.

**Habitat:** Forest edges, forests, meadows and fields, shrublands or thickets, woodlands

**Leaf type:** the leaf blade is simple (i.e., lobed or unlobed but not separated into leaflets)

**Leaves per node:** there is one leaf per node along the stem

**Leaf blade edges:** the edge of the leaf blade has teeth

**Leaf duration:** the leaves drop off in winter (or they wither but persist on the plant)

**Leaf blade length:** 70–120 mm

**Leaf blade width:** 35–105 mm

**Leaf stalk:** the leaves have leaf stalks

**Fruit type (general):** the fruit is dry and splits open when ripe

**Bark texture:** the bark of an adult plant is ridged or plated. The bark of an adult plant is thin and smooth

**Twig winter color:** brown, gray, red

**Bud scale number:** there are three or more scales on the winter bud, and they overlap like shingles, with one edge covered and the other edge exposed

