



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Aspen
Scientific Name: *Populus tremuloides*
Plant Family: Salicaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: The plant can grow to 11 to 22 m (36 to 72 ft) tall.

Leaves: Simple, deciduous, broadly ovate to nearly round, 3.8 to 6.4 cm (1.5 to 2.5 in) long, small, rounded teeth on the margins, a slender, flattened petiole, dark green and shiny above, pale green below, turning bright yellow, yellow-orange, gold, or reddish after the first frosts.

Flowers: The male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers are on separate trees, each type of flower borne in pendent catkins.

Bark: Typically smooth, greenish-white to gray-white, often thin and peeling, becoming thicker and furrowed with age, especially toward the base.

Habitat: Aspen occurs in a wide variety of habitats and at a great range of elevation. It characteristically forms pure stands or mixed stands with bigtooth aspen. It occurs with scrub oaks and sagebrush at lower elevations and as a prostrate form above timberline and exists as a dominant species in many communities at mid elevations.

Bloom time: Mid spring

Information sources:
USDA (plants.usda.gov/plantguide)
Wildflowercenter (wildflower.utexas.edu/plants)

Did you know? Aspen stands are good firebreaks, often dropping crown fires in conifer stands to the ground when they reach aspens and even sometimes extinguishing the fire because of the small amount of flammable accumulation.



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Phenological observation:
Budburst/First Leaf and First Flower

Distribution Area:

