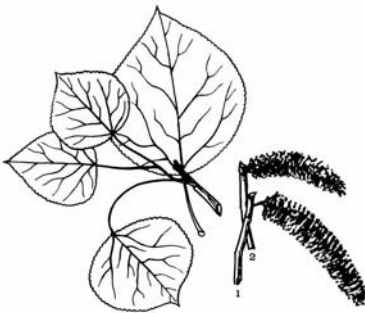


QUAKING ASPEN

Populus tremuloides Michx.

Quaking aspen, popple or trembling aspen is found statewide and is an abundant, rapid growing tree occurring in either pure stands or in mixture with other species. It is found on many different kinds of soil, but makes the best growth on sandy, moist soils. Frequently it is the first species, with paper birch, to become established following heavy cuttings or burns. It does not persist in dense woods because it is intolerant of shade. It is a graceful tree with slender branches far apart and often



contorted. Head round and narrow. It grows to a height of 60 - 75 feet and a diameter of 10 - 16 inches.

The **bark** is smooth, often roughened by horizontal lines

of wart-like outgrowths. It is a pale green with dark brown patches. Bark on old trees is ash gray, dark at the base where it is divided into broad, flat ridges. It has a very bitter taste similar to quinine.

The **leaves** are alternate, rounded, short-pointed, with finely rounded teeth; dark green and shiny above, 1½ - 3 inches long. The flattened petiole causes the leaves to tremble in a breeze.

The **flowers** are in catkins which appear before the leaves. The **fruit** is a capsule which ripens about June. The seeds are very small, light and cottony, and are carried long distances by the wind. The **buds** are dark brown, have a varnished appearance, and may be slightly sticky. Flower buds are usually larger than the leaf buds.

The **wood** is close-grained, soft, and rots very easily. It is used increasingly for trim, lumber, pallets, and for the manufacture of wafer board, landscape ties, plywood, core stock, and expendable turnery items. It is used extensively for pulp.