



Poplar is a genus of deciduous fast-growing trees, which includes about 35 species, which differ in size, leaf shape, bark color, etc. Representatives of this genus can be found throughout the northern hemisphere (North America, Europe, Asia and North Africa). People grow poplar because it grows quickly, provides ample shade, and its wood can be used for a wide variety of purposes. A distinctive feature of poplars is the presence of dark "notches" on its bark. The same notches can be seen on birch trees. These are lentils. Trees need them to carry out gas exchange (in other words, to breathe). In fairness, it should be noted that other trees also have lentils, they just may be of a different shape and not so noticeable against the background of darker bark. Many people suffering from allergies hate this tree with all their fibers because of its fluff. Poplar fluff is really a nasty "trick" of these giants. But where does this fluff come from and why does the tree need it? The thing is that fluff is a transport capsule for plant seeds. Thanks to the fluff, the seeds can fly away from the parent tree and colonize new territories. It is also worth noting that most species of poplar are dioecious plants. That is, there are males and females. Men's poplar does not give fluff (only female does this). But at the same time, trees can change sex, so planting only male trees will not protect against nasty fluff. Well, in the end, fluff is not allergenic. Allergies are caused by pollen. This is a real record holder for the release of oxygen. For example, one adult tree of this genus can release as much oxygen per day as 8 lindens, 6 oaks, 13 spruces and 5 maples. These are just phenomenal indicators and because of this, in part, in many cities these trees are planted for landscaping, even turning a blind eye to their terrible fluff. Unlike many other trees, poplars have a very short lifespan. They die as quickly as they grow. The average life expectancy of a poplar is about 25-50 years. For the fastest possible restoration of the "green" part of the city, dendrologists suggested using balsam poplar. This species is characterized by rapid growth, a dense crown, ease of reproduction, a pleasant decorative appearance, and, most importantly, at that time it was very cheap. This tree has a very light, soft and well-processed wood. It is widely used in industry. It is used to make match straws, plywood, lumber, containers, etc. It is also used as a raw material for paper production. This tree was very popular in ancient Rome. And it was the Romans who gave it the name *Arbor Populi*, which means "Tree of the People" in Latin. From this came the very name of the genus - *Populus*. But how the word "poplar" appeared in Russian language is not entirely clear. There is a version that this name came from the word "swamp", as black poplars grow along lowlands and swamps. But this is only a version. According to Greek mythology, the black poplar was created after Phaethon's furious attempt to drive the solar chariot of his father Helios (a newer version of Apollo). Phaethon tried to cope with his father's

chariot, but failed, and it deflected, caught fire and headed for Earth. Gaia (the ancient Greek goddess of the Earth), asked Zeus for help and he struck Phaethon with lightning. Thus, Phaethon died. Phaethon had sisters, Heliades. It was they who harnessed horses for their brother, despite his father's prohibition. After the death of his brother, they began to cry. They wept until the gods turned them into poplars, and their tears into amber. These trees have a lot of leaves. In summer, these leaves give a person many advantages: they filter dust, protect against noise and wind, and also create a good shade. But with the onset of autumn, a large number of leaves becomes a real problem. They crumble and create a dense "blanket", which forces public utilities to do a lot of work.