

## Weeping willow

### *Salix babylonica*

#### Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental.

#### Habit

Perennial tree to 40 ft tall; rounded crown; long, hanging branches; grayish-brown, irregularly furrowed bark.

#### Leaves

Alternate, simple, very narrowly lance-shaped, finely serrated margin, yellow-green above and milky green below, 3-6 inches in length, 3/8 to 1/2 inch in width.

#### Stems

Very slender; smooth; olive-green to pale yellowish brown; hanging or drooping for long distances; almost rope-like; buds are small, appressed and covered by a single, cap-like scale; terminal buds lacking.

#### Flowers

Dioecious, males and females appear as upright





catkins and are quite fuzzy, 1 inch long, appearing before or with the leaves.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

A 1 in long cluster of valve-like capsules, light brown in color, contains many fine, cottony seeds; ripen in late May to early June.

### **Habitat**

Native to Asia.

### **Reproduction**

By herbaceous stem cuttings, woody stem cuttings or softwood cuttings.

### **Similar**

White Willow (*Salix alba*); Black Willow (*Salix nigra*); Corkscrew Willow (*Salix matsudana* Koidzumi ).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand pull small seedlings; use machinery to remove larger trees and root systems in dry areas; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

### **Credits**

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