

## White willow

### *Salix alba*

#### Description

Used in the production of gun powder and tanning leather. Also used for its medicinal properties.

#### Habit

Perennial tree to 80 ft; widely spreading crown; yellowish-brown twigs; grayish-brown, irregularly furrowed bark.

#### Leaves

Alternate, simple, lanceolate to narrow ovate, 2-4 inches long, finely serrated, shiny green above, nearly white and silky below.

#### Stems

Very slender; smooth or slightly downy; yellowish brown (golden); flexible; buds are small, appressed and covered by a single, cap-like





scale; terminal buds lacking.

### **Flowers**

Dioecious, males and females appear as upright, yellowish, fuzzy catkins; 1 1/2 to 2 in long, appearing before or with the leaves.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

1-2 in long cluster of valve-like, light brown capsules; contains many fine, cottony seeds; ripen in late spring to early summer.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe, North Africa and central Asia. Grows well in moist soils and can be found along lakeshores and stream banks.

### **Reproduction**

Vegetatively.

### **Similar**

Peachleaf Willow (*Salix amygdaloides*); Laurel Willow (*Salix pentandra*).

### **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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