

Crack willow

Salix fragilis

Description

It was introduced to North America as a fast-growing ornamental.

Habit

Large, deciduous tree; growing up to 65 ft in height; often divides into several large branches low on the trunk or at ground level.

Leaves

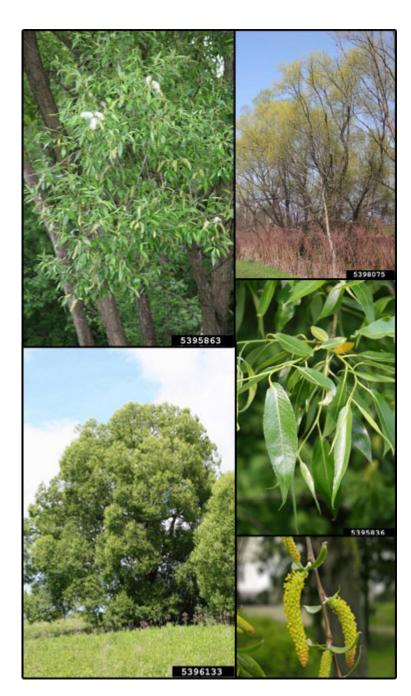
Alternate, long, lanceolate or linearlanceolate, 2.8-5 in long and 0.6-1.2 in wide, finely serrate, shiny yellowish-green above, pale to white-hairless below.

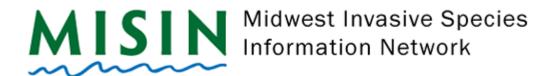
Stems

Dark brown or dark gray bark is deeply divided into scaly forking ridges, 65 ft in height.

Flowers

Grouped catkins 1.2-2.4 in long at ends of short leafy branches; small, yellowish hairy scales; pistillate and staminate on different trees; bloom





in early spring.

Fruits and Seeds

Numerous conical fruit capsules release many small cottony-tufted seeds, germinate immediate after wind or water dispersal on moist, bare mineral soils.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Grows in light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils that are acid to neutral and moist or wet; found along streams, marshes, fens, wet woods and disturbed areas with moist soils.

Reproduction

Vegetatively by twigs breaking off and taking root, and from root suckers.

Similar

Black willow (Salix nigra).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Cut tree off at or just above ground level as level as possible then apply herbicides; effectively controlled using a water registered glyphosate product.

Credits

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