

## 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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