

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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