

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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