

Sandbar Willow



Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*)

General Description

A medium shrub, native along riverbanks, lakes and sloughs throughout most of North Dakota. Suckers profusely.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Alternate.

Bud Color - Greenish-yellow.

Bud Size - 1/8 to 1/4 inch long.

Leaf Type and Shape - Linear to linear-lanceolate.

Leaf Margins - Sharply toothed, the teeth larger, farther apart than on most willows.

Leaf Surface - Smooth, slightly pubescent on juvenile growth.

Leaf Length - 2 to 4 inches.

Leaf Width - 1/4 to 1/2 inch.

Leaf Color - Green, paler beneath.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - 3/4 to 2 inches long, catkins on new leafy branches.

Flower Color - Yellowish-green.

Fruit Type - Capsule, seed attached to cottony hairs.

Fruit Color - Brown and white.

Form

Growth Habit - Medium shrub, rounded, suckers to form a thicket of wispy, slender stems.

Texture - Fine, summer; medium-fine, winter.

Crown Height - 5 to 10 feet.

Crown Width - 5 to 10 feet.

Bark Color - Brownish-tan.

Root System - Fibrous, spreading.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Performs best on deep, moist loams; found along stream beds.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0. Adaptable to moderately high pH soils.

Windbreak Suitability Groups- 1, 1K, 2, 2K, 2H.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

Water

Does well in moist sites and survives severe flooding.

Not drought tolerant.

Light

Full sun.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium shrub for wildlife plantings. Suckering habit is an advantage for riparian plantings to stabilize stream banks.

Wildlife

Dense thickets provide cover to many wildlife species and game birds. Hoofed browsers may feed on leaves and twigs.

Agroforestry Products

Medicinal - Used for headaches, fever, gout, pain, analgesic, disinfectant, antiseptic and skin ointments. Salicylic acid is active chemical contained in tissues.

Urban/Recreational

Rounded form or thicket for use in wet areas. Suckers profusely and not recommended for use in home landscapes.

Cultivated Varieties

Silver Sands Willow (*Salix interior* 'Silver Sands')

Related Species

Laurel Willow (*Salix pentandra*)

Peachleaf Willow (*S. amygdaloides*)

White Willow (*S. alba*)

Pests

Most willows are susceptible to twig cankers, tar spots, aphids, willow galls and scale insects.