Redstem Willow
**Redstem Willow**  
*Salix alba ‘Chermesina’*

**General Description**
A large low-branching tree forming an upright, oval to rounded crown. Widely planted as a yard tree. Brought over from Europe and central Asia.

**Leaves and Buds**
Bud Arrangement - Alternate.
Bud Color - Yellow to reddish-orange with a silky down.
Bud Size - 1/5 inch long, rounded at apex, and flattened against the twig with a single, cap-like bud scale.
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, lanceolate, acuminate, and cuneate.
Leaf Margins - Finely-serrate.
Leaf Surface - Smooth above, glaucous and silky beneath.
Leaf Length - 1½ to 4 inches.
Leaf Width - 1/4 to 5/8 inch.
Leaf Color - Bright green on top, silvery-gray below.

**Flowers and Fruits**
Flower Type - Catkins 3/4 to 2½ inches long.
Flower Color - Yellowish-green.
Fruit Type - Capsule, seed attached to cottony hairs.
Fruit Color - Brownish-white.

**Form**
Growth Habit - Large, upright pyramidal, becoming more rounded.
Texture - Fine, summer; medium, winter.
Crown Height - 40 to 60 feet.
Crown Width - 30 to 45 feet.
Bark Color - New growth reddish-orange, becoming yellowish-brown.
Root System - Fibrous spreading.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
Soil Texture - Performs best on deep moist loams, or along stream beds and wetlands.
Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0 - Adaptable to high pH soils.
Windbreak Suitability Groups - 1, 1K, 2, 2K, 2H.

**Cold Hardiness**
USDA Zone 2.

**Water**
Does well in moist sites and survives severe flooding. Often dies back during periods of extended drought.

**Light**
Full sun to partial shade.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Medium to tall tree for farmstead and field windbreaks and riparian plantings. Grows taller and more upright than White and Golden Willows. Redstem Willow merits increased acceptance for windbreak plantings.

**Wildlife**
Dense form provides cover to many wildlife species.

**Agroforestry Products**
Wood - Used for fuelwood, pallets, crates, unexposed furniture parts, cooperage, woodenware and carving.
Medicinal - Early Americans and Europeans used an extract for headaches, fever, gout and pain. Willow is a source of salicin which is broken down to salicylic acid, the main component in aspirin.

**Urban/Recreational**
Very attractive and functional shade, windbreak and accent tree. (See Flame Willow below).

**Cultivated Varieties**
Flame Willow (*Salix alba ‘Flame’*) - An improved, dense, ornamental red-stemmed willow released by Bergeson Nursery, Fertile, Minnesota.
Golden Willow (*S. alba ‘Vitellina’*)
Siberian White Willow (*S. alba ‘Sericea’*) - Silvery-gray, hairy leaves.
Weeping Golden Willow (*S. alba ‘Tristis’*) - Popular specimen yard tree but very messy due to twig drop.

**Related Species**
Peach-leaved Willow (*Salix amygdaloides*)
Laurel Willow (*S. pentandra*)

**Pests**
Common diseases include Cytospora canker and leaf spots. Insect pests include aphids, lace bug, sawfly and scales.