Sandbar Willow
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*(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.