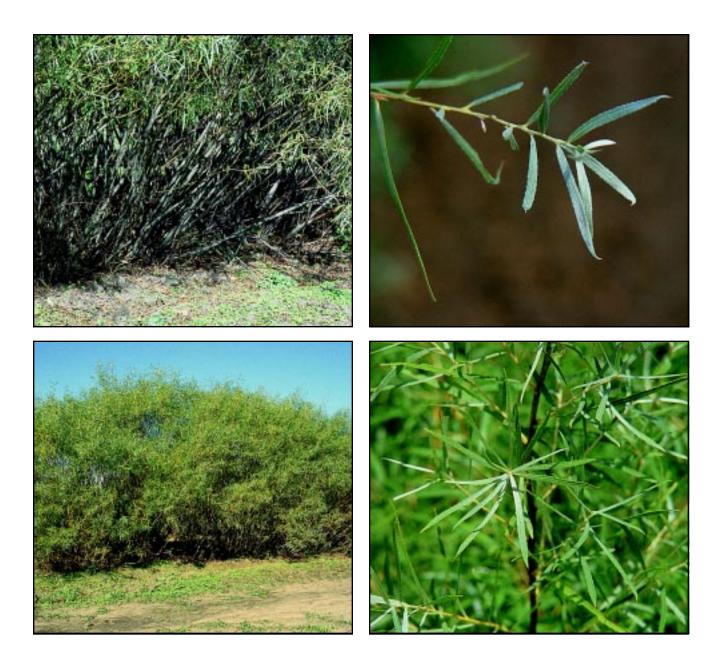
## Sandbar Willow



# 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.