

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Mackenzie Willow (*Salix mackenzieana*)

Distribution

Mackenzie willow occurs in western Wyoming, Western Montana, and north to the Yukon Territory, Idaho and Eastern Cascades of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

Growth Habit

Mackenzie Willow grows into a medium sized multi-stem shrub that grows from 6 to 30 feet tall and 15 feet wide. Catkins will form on new growth. Mature leaves are finally toothed in sections and green. The undersides are pale and glaucous.

Adaptability

Mackenzie willow can be found growing on rocky stream and river edges to moist alluvial terraces from low to mid elevations in partial shade to full sun. It grows best in fine-textured soils with available moisture. It is a pioneer species that will establish itself on exposed stream banks and also occurs on well established sites proving to be somewhat long lived.

Comments

- Mackenzie Willow is useful in stream bank stabilization, riparian and wildlife habitat improvement, shelterbelts, and other uses requiring a moisture tolerant species.
- Historically used for basket making, bows, arrows, scoops, fish traps and many other items.
- Named after the Fur trader Alexander Mackenzie.
- Ducks, grouse and other birds as well other animals eat the willow shoots, catkins, buds and leaves.
- Wonderful wildlife habitat for hiding and nesting.

