

## WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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### Sitka Willow (*Salix sitchensis*)

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#### Distribution

Sitka Willow is native to northwestern North American and can be found at lower to mid elevations from Alaska through to northern California and east to Montana.

#### Growth Habit

Sitka Willow grows to medium sized upright multi-stemmed shrub. Depending upon the planting site, it can grow from 10' to 20' feet tall. Its leaves are elliptical, pointed, medium-green and have a 'wavy' margin with silvery hairs underneath. 'Plumas' Sitka Willow is a male clone. It will produce male catkins, but not seed.

#### Adaptability

It is tolerant of most soils where ample moisture is available. It is a common and abundant plant found in coastal and inland wetland habitat including marshes, riverbanks, swamps, sand dunes and mountain springs.

#### Comments

- It is useful in stabilizing stream banks, riparian restoration and providing wildlife habitat.
- The inner bark was dried and grounded into a powder and used for making bread.
- Willows are a natural precursor to aspirin. The bark is pounded and then applied to wounds to help aide in the healing process.

