

Salix acutifolia - Willd.

Common Name Sharp-Leaf Willow

Family **Salicaceae**

Synonyms S. daphnoides
acutifolia.

Known Hazards None known

Habitats Not known

Range N. Europe to E. Asia.

Edibility Rating  

Medicinal Rating   

Care     

Physical Characteristics



Salix acutifolia is a deciduous Shrub growing to 10 m (32ft 10in).

It is hardy to zone 5 and is not frost tender. The flowers are dioecious (individual flowers are either male or female, but only one sex is to be found on any one plant so both male and female plants must be grown if seed is required) and are pollinated by Bees. The plant is not self-fertile.

Suitable for: light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils and can grow in heavy clay soil. Suitable pH: acid and neutral soils. It cannot grow in the shade. It prefers moist or wet soil. The plant can tolerate maritime exposure.

Habitats

Woodland Garden Secondary; Sunny Edge; Dappled Shade;

Edible Uses

Edible Parts: [Inner bark](#); [Leaves](#).

Edible Uses:

Inner bark - raw or cooked. It can be dried, ground into a powder and added to cereal flours for use in making bread etc. A famine food, it is only used when all else fails[172]. Young shoots - cooked. They are not very palatable[172].

Medicinal Uses

Plants For A Future can not take any responsibility for any adverse effects from the use of plants. Always seek advice from a professional medicinally.

[Anodyne](#); [Febrifuge](#).

The fresh bark of all members of this genus contains salicin[226], which probably decomposes into salicylic acid (closely related to This is used as an anodyne and febrifuge[226].

Other Uses

[Basketry](#); [Shelterbelt](#); [Soil stabilization](#).

Stems are very flexible and are used in basket making[46, 61]. The plant is usually coppiced annually when grown for basket making, though it is possible to coppice it every two years if thick poles are required as uprights. Trees can be planted in shelter-belts for protection against the wind[166]. The extensive root system of this plant is good for binding sandy soils[11].

Cultivation details

Succeeds in most soils, including wet, ill-drained or intermittently flooded soils[1, 11], but prefers a damp, heavy soil in a sunny position[200]. Rarely thrives on chalk[200]. Very wind-resistant, tolerating maritime exposure[166]. Hybridizes freely with other members of this genus[200]. Although the flowers are

produced in catkins early in the year, they are pollinated by bees and other insects rather than by the wind[11]. Closely related to *S. daphnoides*[200] and considered to be a part of that species by some authorities[11, 17]. Some named forms have been developed for their ornamental value[182]. There are also named forms cultivated for basket making[46, 61]. Plants in this genus are notably susceptible to honey fungus[200]. Dioecious. Male and female plants must be grown if seed is required.

Propagation

Seed - must be surface sown as soon as it is ripe in late spring. It has a very short viability, perhaps as little as a few days. Cuttings of mature wood of the current year's growth, November to February in a sheltered outdoor bed or planted straight into their permanent position and given a good weed-suppressing mulch. Very easy. Plant into their permanent positions in the autumn. Cuttings of half-ripe wood, June to August in a frame. Very easy.