

F2211 (July 2024)

Joseph Zeleznik, Ph.D., Extension Forester

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Salix pentandra*

Family: Salicaceae (Willow)

Hardiness: Zone 3

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Fast

Mature Height: 25' - 45'

Longevity: Long

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: Inconspicuous

Fruit: n/a

Fall Color: Yellow

Laurel Leaf Willow

Description

A small to medium-sized tree that is often seen in a shrubby form. One of the first to leaf out in spring and last to drop its leaves in autumn. Attractive, highly glossy leaves and round crown. The largest tree in North Dakota is 45 feet tall with a canopy spread of 36 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun to partial shade.

Water: Does well on moist sites and survives flooding. May die back during extended drought.

Soil: Performs best on deep loam soils along streams or wetlands.

Comments

Laurel leaf willow is considered to have the best foliage of all the willows with dark green lustrous color in summer.

Used as food and cover by a number of wetland animals. Wood is often used for firewood, furniture and crafts.

'Prairie Reflection' – A handsome, round-headed variety released by NDSU.



Credits: Tree Selector Website, North Dakota Tree Handbook.

NDSU | EXTENSION

North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

The NDSU Extension does not endorse commercial products or companies even though reference may be made to tradenames, trademarks or service names. County commissions, North Dakota State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to Vice Provost for Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, NDSU Main Campus, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu. This publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities upon request, 701-231-7881.