

# Salix nigra



## black willow

Family	Salicaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	FACW	CoC	2

### DESCRIPTION

Small to medium-sized tree (to 25 m tall) with a spreading crown, often multiple large trunks, and dark gray to black, thick, rough, scaly ridged bark. Twigs are orange-brown, smooth and slender. Leaves (3 to 16 cm long) are simple, alternate, lance and sickle-shaped with fine-toothed margins. Both upper and lower leaf surfaces are green shiny and smooth. Leafy stipules are present on younger stems at the base of the leaf stalks (petioles).



© Lane Chaffin



© Plectruds



© Charlotte Bill

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April to May. Male and female flowers on separate plants are both tiny, green, in spike-like clusters (catkins), 2 to 9 cm long, arching or drooping and appearing with the leaves. The fruits are cone-shaped capsules clustered on the mature catkin and containing many small silky-white hair covered seeds.



© Lisa Travis



© Laura Clark

### HABITAT

Stream banks, sandy and rocky bars, floodplain forests, swamps, depression ponds, and beaver ponds.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

See the *Salix sericea* page for differences between these two species. *Salix alba*, white willow, is a tree with similar leaf shape but has waxy pale lower leaf surfaces.



© Matthew Salkiewicz

*Salix alba*