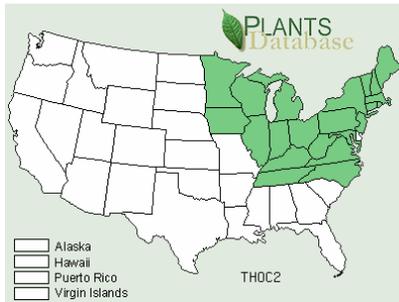


### Anticipated Area of Adaptation

This species range is throughout the eastern United States from Georgia northward. The anticipated areas of use are the Great Lakes and Midwest regions. This species inhabits moist soils on the borders of lakes, streams, ditches, and other low areas.



### For more information

Visit the NRCS Plant Materials Program website to learn more about using plants to address conservation problems.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>



### To request plant stock or further information contact:

Rose Lake Plant Materials Center  
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Please contact:

Dave Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist  
Email: [Dave.Burgdorf@mi.usda.gov](mailto:Dave.Burgdorf@mi.usda.gov)

Or

John Rissler, PMC Manager  
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### August 2003

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## Riverbend Germplasm silky willow (*Salix sericea* Marshall)



Released by

**Rose Lake  
Plant Materials Center**

**East Lansing, Michigan**

### **Riverbend Germplasm silky willow**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announce the release of a tested ecotype of silky willow (*Salix sericea* Marshall) for the Midwest and Great Lakes regions.

As a tested release, this plant will be referred to as **Riverbend Germplasm silky willow** and has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9069052.

This release is justified because existing commercial sources of shrub willows native to the Midwest and Great Lakes have not been tested for their usefulness in streambank/shoreline stabilization or riparian corridors. No known commercial cultivars of silky willow have been released at this time.

### **Ecotype Description**

Riverbend Germplasm silky willow is an erect, multi-branched, native shrub that grows to 12 feet tall. It has a thick canopy of lanceolate, fine-toothed leaves that grow to 5 inches long. The leaves are dark green and smooth above, and glaucous (white) and sericeous (silky) beneath. The twigs are hairless, light green to brown in color, and brittle at the base. Catkins are precocious.

### **Collection Site Information**

Riverbend Germplasm silky willow was collected by Al Tinsley in Daviess County, Indiana.

### **Method of Selection**

The method of selection consisted of one hundred twenty collections of various shrub-type willow species assembled from Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin in 1992. A collection consisted of approximately fifty 12-inch woody cuttings taken from a single healthy willow shrub, or a colony of shrubs with like characteristics growing in close proximity. Cuttings were planted to individual pots and placed in the greenhouse for three months. Eight plants were selected from each accession and transplanted into an initial study area on the Center. Survival, vigor, spread, insect resistance, tillering, height, canopy width, and canopy density data was collected over a three-year period from 1994 to 1996. In 1998, 16 accessions were selected for inclusion in an advanced Center trial. Most of these and additional accessions were placed in off-center field trials located in Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. Center and off-center trials were established in 4-plant plots in a randomized complete block design with four replications. 'Streamco' pupleosier willow and 'Bankers' dwarf willow were used as standards of comparison.

Survival, height, spread, canopy width, and canopy density data were taken on the accessions in the advance trials from 1998 through 2000. Riverbend Germplasm silky willow was selected for its excellent canopy density, growth, and overall appearance.

Riverbend Germplasm silky willow is unaltered. It is a selection from naturally occurring germplasm. Riverbend Germplasm was determined "okay to release" when evaluated for environmental impact using the criteria adopted by the USDA- NRCS Plant Materials Program.

### **Anticipated Conservation Use**

Riverbend Germplasm silky willow is intended for use in streambank/shoreline restoration and riparian corridors.

### **Availability of Plant Materials**

Generations 0 (G)) rooted cuttings are being maintained by the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and are available to interested parties for increase purposes.

### **Propagation**

Riverbend Germplasm silky willow roots well from both hardwood and softwood cuttings.