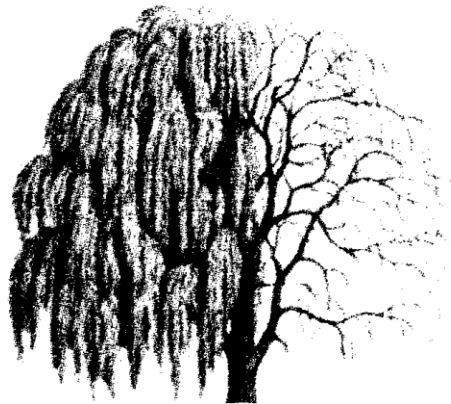
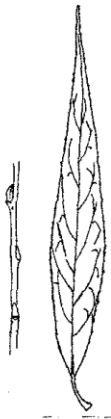


Weeping Willow

Salix chrysocoma



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The weeping willows are a confused group of plants because the history of the various similar species and their horticultural derivatives has not been monitored. For convenience here I will assume that the so called common weeping willow is actually a hybrid between *S. alba* and *S. babylonica* that is often called *S. alba* var. 'Tristis'. In the horticultural trade this is known as *S. x chrysocoma*. The weeping willow is a beautiful tree that loves to be near water and provides the ultimate in weeping habit and graceful movement in a breeze. The golden stems and the narrow leaves with a silvery underside add to its' grace and beauty. This is a tree for the larger landscape in a wet environment, not next to a building where the roots can penetrate into the water and waste lines to their detriment.

HABIT AND SIZE: 75-100' high and 50-100' wide with low branches from which pendulous flexible stems originate. The overall shape is a broad, open rounded form.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A very good tree for landscape use in the right spot. Best for moist, wet places that are not ideal for other trees. Can be damaged by ice and wind storms and is a messy tree because leaves, twigs, branches etc. are always littering the ground.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple, lanceolate, 1.5-4" long and 0.25-0.875" wide with an acuminate tip, a wedge shaped base (cuneate) and margins with small pointed serrations. Color a bright green on top and glaucous green (silvery) underneath turning golden in fall.

FLOWERS: In male and female catkins in early spring before the leaves emerge. Flowers lack a perianth (sepals and petals) the 1 or more stamens (in male catkins) and the single pistils (in female catkins) are borne in the axils of bracts and a disk at the base of the flower.

FRUIT: Single chambered capsule bearing many small seeds each with long down or hairs.

BUD: Only lateral buds which are 0.25" long with an oblong shape and rounded at the apex. Their texture is smooth and somewhat silky-downy. They are flattened and appressed against the stem with a single visible yellowish-brown bud scale that is rounded on the back.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Many afflictions such as bacterial twig blight, crown gall, leaf blight, black canker, cytospora canker, gray scab, leaf spots, powdery mildew, aphids, willow leaf beetle, willow lace bug, willow flea weevil, willow scurfy scale and other insects.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 2-8(9). Naturalized in American.

CULTIVARS: 'Vitallina'- bright yellow stems 'Tristis'- the current standard weeping willow.