



# Willow

*Salix* spp.

Willow Family (*Salicaceae*)

**General Description:** Thrive in wetland environments. Depending on species grow as shrub or small tree.

**Key Characteristics:** Young bark has lime-green to golden-yellow appearance. Older bark becomes grey or brown and tends to peel. Young twigs are flexible and smooth. Insect galls are frequently found on willows. Alternately arranged leaf buds with a single scale. Buds are appressed with no true terminal bud.

**Confused With:** The easiest way to identify individual willow species is to key them out with catkins in the spring.

Photo: Joe Bettis