Rosemary Leaved Willow

Salix rosmarinifolia



Rosemary Leaved Willow foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Rosemary Leaf Willow

Description:

Small narrow leaves similar to rosemary give this plant its common name; the delicate texture of the silvery leaves make this plant a truly interesting garden accent or hedge, good for tough locations

Ornamental Features

Rosemary Leaved Willow features delicate panicles of yellow catkins along the branches in early spring, which emerge from distinctive silver flower buds before the leaves. It has attractive light green foliage with silver undersides which emerges grayish green in spring. The fuzzy narrow leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color. The smooth bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Rosemary Leaved Willow is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Rosemary Leaved Willow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Rosemary Leaved Willow will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.