



Sharp Leaf Willow

Salix acutifolia

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Description:

A tough and adaptable shade tree, low branched and wide spreading; extremely hardy, often used as a windbreak in northern regions; tends to drop branchlets, aggressive root system, so do not plant near homes

Ornamental Features

Sharp Leaf Willow has rich green deciduous foliage on a tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. The narrow leaves turn yellow in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Sharp Leaf Willow is a dense deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a high maintenance tree that will require regular care 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;

- Messy
- Invasive

Sharp Leaf Willow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Sharp Leaf Willow will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet 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 50 years or more.



Sharp Leaf Willow
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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 native to parts of North America.