

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



Salix humilis

COMMON NAME: Prairie Willow

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salix humilis* The name comes from Latin with *salix* referring to willow (meaning leap or spring because of its fast growth) and *humilis* meaning low because the shrub is low-growing.

FLOWER: The catkins are 1-3 cm long, dark brown or purplish with male and female catkins on separate plants.

BLOOMING PERIOD: April-May

SIZE: Low to medium sized shrub usually growing 2-4 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Leaves appear after the catkins. The shrub forms clones.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Forest edges, disturbed ground and roadsides. Prairie willow is adaptable to a variety of habitats.

NATURAL RANGE: Found in the eastern half of the US and Canada, from the Dakotas and Manitoba eastward. Grows well in most parts of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Twigs are yellowish-brown to dark brown with branchlets strongly ascending. Leaves are alternate, dark green with conspicuous yellow veins. Margins are coarsely and irregularly toothed. The underside is whitened.

SUGGESTED CARE: Fairly easy to care for.