

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

and

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF RIVERBEND GERmplasm SILKY WILLOW
TESTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERmplasm

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD), and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announce the release of a tested ecotype of silky willow (*Salix sericea* Marshall) for the Midwest and Great Lakes regions.

As a tested release, this plant will be referred to as Riverbend Germplasm silky willow and has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9069052.

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of shrub willows native to the Midwest and Great Lakes have not been tested for their usefulness in streambank/shoreline stabilization or riparian corridors. No known commercial cultivars of silky willow have been released at this time.

Collection Site Information: The collection site was located in Daviess County, Indiana, R 6 W, T 1 N, Section 12, at an elevation of 146 meters (480 feet). This is in MLRA 120, PHZ 6A. Cuttings were collected in February 1992 by Al Tinsley at the edge of a woods/grassland on a wakeland soil in 1/2 inch of standing water.

Description: Riverbend Germplasm silky willow is a tall, erect, multi-branched, native shrub that grows to 3 1/2 meters (12 feet) tall. It has a thick canopy of lanceolate, fine-toothed leaves that grow to 12.5 cm (5 inches) long. These are dark green and smooth above, and glaucous (white) and sericeous (silky) beneath. Twigs are hairless, light green to brown in color and brittle at the base. Catkins are precocious.

See attached Documentation of a Plant Accession Selected for Advanced Testing for additional information.

Method of Selection: One hundred twenty collections of various shrub-type willow species were assembled from Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin in 1992. A collection consisted of approximately fifty 12-inch woody cuttings taken from a single healthy willow shrub or colony of shrubs with like characteristics growing in close proximity. Cuttings were planted to individual pots and placed in the greenhouse for three months. Eight plants were selected from each accession and transplanted into an initial study area on the Center. Survival, vigor, spread, insect resistance, tillering, height, canopy width, and canopy density data was collected over a three-year period from 1994 to 1996. In 1998, 16 accessions were selected for inclusion in an advanced Center trial. Most of these and additional accessions were placed in off-center field trials located in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. Both

Center and off-center trials were established as 4-plant plots in a randomized complete block designs with four replications. "Streamco" purpleosier willow and "Bankers" dwarf willow were used as standards of comparison. Accession 9069052 was included in the Indiana trial as well as the Center trial. However, survival on the Indiana plots was so low that the site was dropped. Survival, height, spread, canopy width, and canopy density data were taken on the accessions in the advance trials from 1998 through 2000. Riverbend Germplasm silky willow was selected for its excellent canopy density, growth, and overall appearance (see supporting data attached to this notice).

Environmental Impact Assessment: Riverbend Germplasm silky willow is a selection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Riverbend Germplasm was determined "okay to release" when evaluated for environmental impact using the criteria adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program (see attached worksheet).

Anticipated Conservation Use: Riverbend Germplasm is intended for use in streambank/shoreline restoration and riparian corridors.

Anticipated Area of Adaptation: The species range is throughout the eastern United States from Georgia northward. The anticipated areas of use are the Great Lakes and Midwest regions and are within the species range. This species inhabits moist soils on the borders of lakes and streams, ditches, and other low areas.

Availability of Plant Materials: Generation 0 (G0) rooted cutting will be maintained by the USDA NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and made available in limited quantities beginning in 2003 to interested parties for increase purposes. For further information, contact the Plant Materials Specialist or Center Manager at the address below.

USDA NRCS
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
(P) 517/641-7831 or 641-6300
(F) 517/641-4421

References:

Gleason H. and A. Conquist, 1991, *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, 2nd Edition, Bronx, New York, The New York Botanical Garden, 910 pp.

Voss, E., 1985, *Michigan Flora, Part II, Dicots*, Cranbrook Institute of Science Bulletin 59 and University of Michigan Herbarium, Ann Arbor, MI, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 724 pp.

Prepared by:

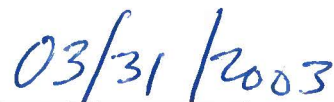
T. C. Bush, USDA NRCS, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, 7472 Stoll Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

Signatures for release of:

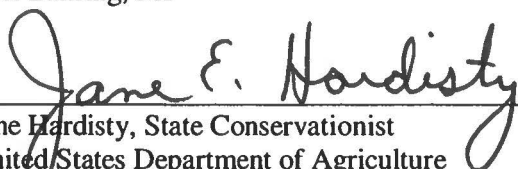
Riverbend Germplasm silky willow (*Salix sericea* Marshall)



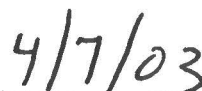
Ronald C. Williams, State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
East Lansing, MI



Date



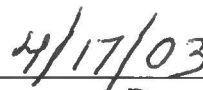
Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Indianapolis, IN



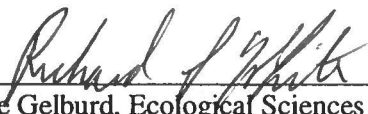
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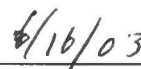
John Goss, Director
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indianapolis, IN



Date



 Diane Gelburd, Ecological Sciences Division Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.



Date

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