

PUSSY WILLOW

Genus/species	<i>Salix discolor</i>
Synonyms	American Pussy Willow, Glaucous Willow
Family	Salicaceae
Distribution	Found in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine
Comments	Pussy Willow is a deciduous shrub or small tree which grows to approximately 20 feet. It has dark-gray scaly bark and multiple trunks. The silvery-gray, furry catkins appear before leaf emergence. Male and female catkins are on different plants. The male catkins are yellow at pollen release. The leaves are oval, bright green and shiny above and gray-white beneath. The fruit is a small capsule containing minute seeds. Pussy Willow favors wetlands and swamps but needs sun to thrive. The genus <i>Salix</i> includes several species found throughout North America. All are quite cross-reactive and are felt to be cross-reactive with cottonwood, poplar, and aspen.

