

SALIX

1. General

The BSBI Handbook *Willows and Poplars of Great Britain and Ireland* by R. D. Meikle (1984) is highly recommended, if not essential, for identification of *Salix*. Another useful account of identification of the native species in Britain and Ireland with illustrations is given by Howitt & Howitt (1990). Stace's *New Flora* includes leaf photographs of most taxa. Problems with the identification of willows will be minimized if material is carefully selected at the right season. Note:-

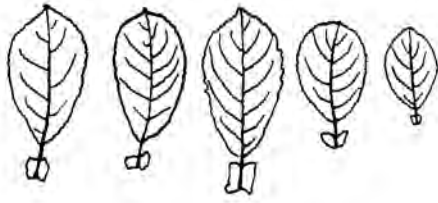
- 1) Juvenile or immature *Salix* foliage is generally uncharacteristic. Foliage is best collected after mid-summer, from July to the end of September. Leaves of some species may be pubescent early in the year but become glabrous later. The rusty hairs on the under-surface of the leaves of *S. cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia* may not develop until mid summer. The underside of the leaves of *S. fragilis* may become more glaucous late in the season.
- 2) Leaves from sucker or coppice shoots are generally abnormal in all respects and should be avoided.
- 3) Leaves from specimens growing in shade are usually longer, thinner and more glabrous than is normal; the stipules are often unusually large, and leaves which would normally have contrasting upper and lower surfaces are often uniformly green on both sides.
- 4) Willows from impoverished and exceptionally exposed sites are commonly dwarfed, often with untypical sprawling branches and small leaves. Such specimens (especially of *S. aurita* or *S. cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*) are frequently misidentified as *S. repens* hybrids. Genuine *S. repens* hybrids generally have an appressed, silky indumentum on the under-surface of the leaf, a character inherited from *S. repens*.

Reference Howitt, R. C. L. & Howitt, B. M. (1990). Willows. In: *A guide to some difficult plants*. Pp. 28-41. Wild Flower Society, London.

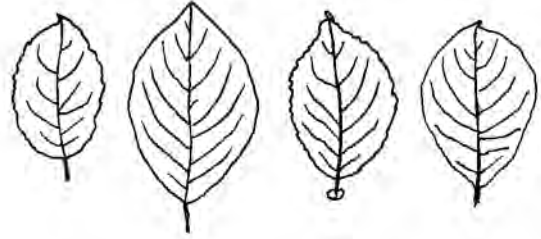
2. *Salix aurita*, *S. caprea*, *S. cinerea* and hybrids

The following leaf illustrations may help with identification of species and hybrids in this complex (material det. E. F. Warburg or R. D. Meikle; **OXF**). For details of leaf characters please see *Willows Handbook* or Stace's *New Flora*.

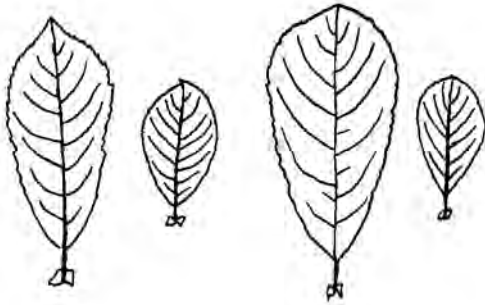
Plant Crib



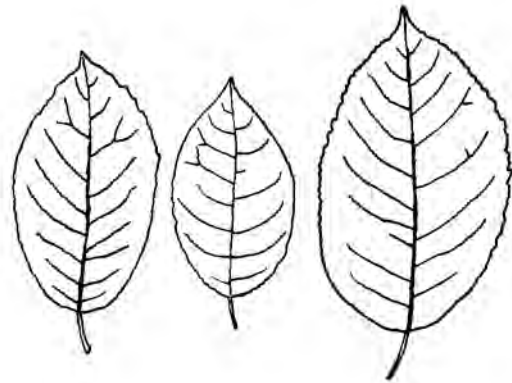
***Salix aurita* L.**



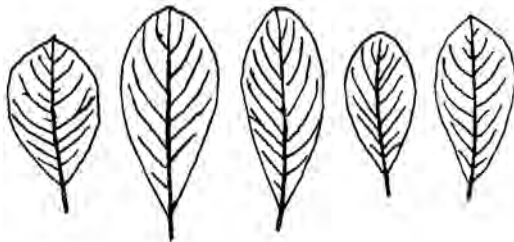
***Salix* × *capreola* Jos. Kern. ex
Andersson (*S. aurita* × *S. caprea*)**



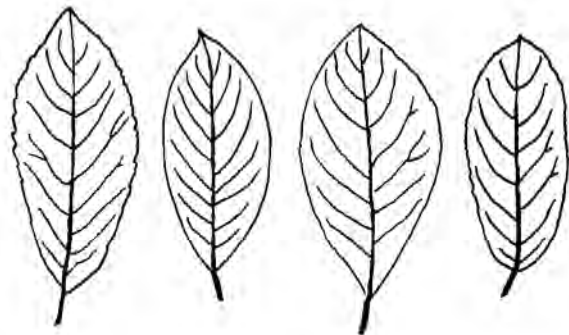
***Salix* × *multinervis* Döll
(*S. aurita* × *S. cinerea*)**



***Salix caprea* L.**



***Salix cinerea* L.**



***Salix* × *reichardtii* A. Kern.
(*S. caprea* × *S. cinerea*)**

