

Fact Sheet

'Awanui'

Salix lasiolepis × *S. viminalis*

NZ 1401



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Awanui' is a New Zealand-bred shrub willow hybrid cross of *S. lasiolepis*, a shrub willow species from California, and *S. viminalis*, a osier willow species from Europe.

Characteristics

'Awanui' is a large multi-stemmed shrub willow that will grow to 10 metres in height. It has a small number of stems, with an upright growth form. The leaves are 8 to 12 centimetres long and broadly lanceolate in shape. They are green above and glaucous below. 'Awanui' is a male willow that flowers from late August to late September, and is a good source of early spring pollen and nectar for honey bees.

'Awanui' is a very vigorous shrub willow that can grow to 4 metres in height in two years from planting. It has a long growing season, retaining its leaves well into winter. It has bitter leaves that are resistant to browsing by rabbits and possums, and is resistant to leaf rust and the giant willow aphid. It has some tolerance of drought conditions.

Uses

'Awanui' is suitable for soil conservation use, but should not be planted along the edge of stream banks. The large stems of this shrub willow are not flexible, and could be damaged by high stream flows. Osier willows such as *S. purpurea* and *S. viminalis* with slender flexible stems are best used for stabilising the edge of stream banks, with 'Awanui' planted further back on the stream bank, away from the stream edge.



One year-old plants of 'Awanui' with green leaves in late June.