

Fact Sheet

'Cheltenham'

Salix matsudana × *alba*
NZ 1402



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Cheltenham' is a New Zealand-bred tree willow hybrid cross of *S. matsudana*, the Peking willow from China, and *S. alba*, the white willow from Europe.

Characteristics

'Cheltenham' is a narrow-crowned tree willow clone with upright branching, and a straight stem. The tree stems have a wood basic density of 390 kg m⁻³. It is an attractive male willow clone, with golden-yellow-coloured stems, non-brittle branches, and non-bitter leaves. It flowers from late September to mid-October.

The leaves are narrow, lanceolate in shape, with a dark-green upper and whiteish-green lower surface. The leaf midrib and lateral veins are green, and the petiole is pale red. The leaves are resistant to infection by *Melampsora coleosporioides* leaf rust fungi. The willow gall sawfly (*Euura proxima*) forms bean-shaped galls on the leaves, but these have little effect on the trees.

Uses

'Cheltenham' is suitable for soil conservation use on stream banks and river berm land. It has performed well on alluvial silt loam soils in the Manawatu region, and peat soils in the Horowhenua district of the North Island. At 15 years old, a tree on peat soils had a height of 24 m, stem diameter at breast height (1.4 m) of 43 cm, and a crown width of 9 m.



A tree of the 'Cheltenham' willow growing on peat soils near Levin in the Horowhenua district.



Leaf of the 'Cheltenham' willow clone, showing the upper (left) and lower (right) surfaces.



Stem bark of the 'Cheltenham' willow clone.

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