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Fact Sheet

‘Kew’
Salix matsudana
PN 227

THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

‘Kew’ is an imported tree willow clone of *S. matsudana*, the Peking willow from China.

Characteristics

‘Kew’ is a tree willow clone with upright branching and lower pendulous branches, and a spreading crown. The tree stems develop early rough bark and have a wood basic density of 451 kg m-3. It is a female willow clone, that has brittle branches that can become prone to wind damage with age, and non-bitter leaves that flush early in spring. The flowering period is from early September to early October.

The leaves are narrow, lanceolate in shape, with a light-green upper and lower surface. The leaf midrib and lateral veins are green, and the petiole is green. The leaves are susceptible to infection by *Melampsora coleosporioides* leaf rust fungi, but are resistant to the willow gall sawfly (*Euura proxima*) with the galls and larvae not developing in the leaves.

Uses

‘Kew’ is drought tolerant and is suitable for soil conservation use in wide-spaced planting for slope stabilisation in pastoral hill country. It has proven to be well adapted to a wide range of environmental conditions. The trees can reach 20 m in height, stem diameter at breast height (1.4 m) of 90 cm and 20 m in crown width.

A tree of the ‘Kew’ PN 227 willow clone growing on alluvial silt loam soils in Palmerston North.

Leaf of the ‘Kew’ PN 227 willow clone, showing the upper (left) and lower (right) surfaces.

Stem bark of the ‘Kew’ PN 227 willow clone.

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