

Fact Sheet

'Moutere'

Salix matsudana × *alba*

NZ 1184



THE NEW ZEALAND
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Moutere' 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

'Moutere' is a tree willow clone with upright branching, a reasonably narrow crown, and a straight stem. The tree stems have a wood basic density of 416 kg m⁻³. It has non-brittle branches with a high wind tolerance, and non-bitter leaves. It is a hermaphrodite willow clone, with the catkins having male and female flowers. Flowering occurs from early September to early October, with male flowers occurring early, and female flowers late.

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 red. The leaves are susceptible to infection by *Melampsora coleosporioides* leaf rust fungi, and to attack by the willow gall sawfly (*Euura proxima*) with the formation of many leaf galls.

Uses

'Moutere' is suitable for soil conservation use on pastoral hill country and river berms. It is not drought tolerant and is best planted in gullies and lower slopes with good soil moisture. It has performed well on alluvial silt loam soils with trees at 28 years old having a height of 22 m, stem diameter at breast height (1.4 m) of 55 cm, and a crown width of 10 m.



A tree of the 'Moutere' willow clone growing on alluvial soils on the banks of the Otaki River in the Horowhenua district.



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



Stem bark of the 'Moutere' willow clone.

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