

## Fact Sheet

# 'Taitoko'

*Salix matsudana* × *pentandra*

NZ 1341



THE NEW ZEALAND  
POPLAR & WILLOW RESEARCH TRUST

'Taitoko' is a New Zealand-bred tree willow hybrid cross of *S. matsudana*, the Peking willow from China, and *S. pentandra*, the bay willow from Europe.

## Characteristics

'Taitoko' is a narrow-crowned tree willow clone with upright branching, and a straight stem. The tree stems have a wood basic density of 411 kg m<sup>3</sup>. It is a male willow clone, with non-brittle branches, and bitter leaves that are resistant to possum browsing. It flowers from late September to mid-October, with the trees buzzing with honeybees.

The leaves are narrow, lanceolate in shape, with a glossy dark-green upper and light-green lower surface. The leaf midrib and lateral veins are green, and the petiole is pale red. 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

'Taitoko' is suitable for soil conservation use on stream banks and river berm land, and for use in shelterbelts. 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 16 m, stem diameter at breast height (1.4 m) of 35 cm, and a crown width of 10 m.



A row of young trees of the 'Taitoko' willow growing on peat soils near Levin in the Horowhenua district.



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



Stem bark of the 'Taitoko' willow clone.

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