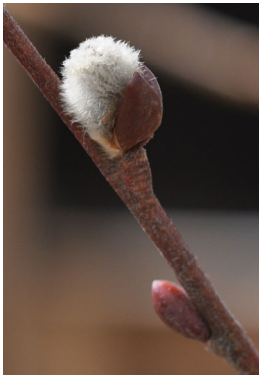


# Pussy Willow

*Salix discolor*



Above left: close up of the flower buds starting to open

Above right: open catkins covered in pollen

Right: Early spring flower coverage and form



## Pussy Willow

*Salix discolor*

Family: Salicaceae

**Stem & Leaf Type:** deciduous shrub

**Size:** 15' tall and wide

**USDA Hardiness Zones:** 4

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, serrulate margins

**Leaf Color:** bright green above, silvery below

**Fall Color:** variable—yellow to none

**Flowers:** upright catkins, male flowers showy

**Fruit:** capsule with silky hair seeds

**Light:** full sun-part shade

**Moisture:** well-drained to wet

**Insect/Disease Issues:** a number of stem blights and cankers that effect all willows

**Nativity:** North America

**Location in the Gardens:** Children's Garden

### Culture & Landscape Value:

A large shrub that can happily grow in waterlogged soils. Best used as a background plant in a mixed border where leaf, twig, and flower litter can be tolerated.

Weeping cultivars grown on a standard are as common as the straight species.

### Notes:

Pussy willow stems are commonly used in late winter and early spring bouquets—the catkins can easily be forced by cutting stems and putting them in a vase.

Very similar to *Salix caprea*.



### Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec