

SALIX CAROLINIANA Michx.
Carolina Willow

FAMILY: Salicaceae

SYNONYM: *Salix longipes* Shuttlw. var. *wardi* (Bebb) Schneid.

HABIT: Sprawling shrub, 1-3 m.; or small tree to 10 m.; flowering May; fruiting late May-early June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Salix caroliniana* most closely resembles the Black Willow, (*Salix nigra*) and can be differentiated from it by the whitened, glaucous undersurface of the leaves of *S. caroliniana*. All members of the genus *Salix* in Ohio are morphologically similar and require technical characters to distinguish among them.

TOTAL RANGE: DE, MD, and the Potomac and Ohio Valleys (to Pittsburgh and s. IN), w. to e. KS and OK, s. to Cuba and Guat.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Scioto, and Warren counties. Pre-1980 records are from Clinton, Franklin, and Ottawa counties. Braun (1961) also reports it from Coshocton, Greene, Hamilton, and Ross counties (see Comments).

HABITAT: Rocky soil along riverbanks, gravel bars, and sandy shores; low woods.

HAZARDS: Stream channelization and bank stabilization.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good along unchannelized streams. It is apparently well adapted to natural disturbance (Deam, 1940).

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for identification.

COMMENTS: *Salix caroliniana* has been reported from counties bordering the Ohio River in Illinois and Indiana. Griggs (1905) reports that it should be sought in Ohio along the Ohio River, but that it had not yet been reported from Ohio. Numerous Ohio specimens labeled *Salix caroliniana* have been erroneously identified, or are too immature to be identified correctly. An effort should be made to accurately determine all known specimens and thus assess the true status of this species in Ohio.

Some older authors, including Deam (1940) and Griggs (1905), refer to this willow as *S. longipes* var. *wardi*. However, most recent authors treat it as *S. caroliniana* and place *S. longipes* in synonymy.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p.

Deam, C.C. 1940. Authorized reprint 1970. Flora of Indiana. Verlag Von J. Cramer, S-H Service Agency, New York, NY. 1236 p.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Griggs, R.F. 1905. The willows of Ohio. A monograph. Ohio State Academy of Science, Vol. 4, part 6. Special Papers No. 11. Columbus, OH. p. 257-314.



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