

SALIX PETIOLARIS J.E. Smith
Slender Willow

FAMILY: Salicaceae

SYNONYM: *Salix gracilis* Anderss. var. *textoris* Fern.

HABIT: Shrub or small tree to 7 m.; flowering late April-early May; fruiting late May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: All members of the genus *Salix* in Ohio are similar and require technical characters to distinguish among them. *Salix petiolaris*, however, has long, slender petioles that make it somewhat distinctive.

TOTAL RANGE: N.B. to NJ and PA, w. to Alberta, n. NE, and CO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Clark, Henry, Lucas, Summit, and Williams counties. Pre-1980 records occur from Ashtabula, Auglaize, Erie, Fulton, Lorain, Williams and Wood counties.

HABITAT: Moist alluvial soil along streams and shores, wet marly meadows and wet prairies; also along roadsides and RR rights-of-way.

HAZARDS: Alteration of water supply; overshadowing by taller woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its ability to colonize disturbed habitats.

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

COMMENTS: *Salix petiolaris* is reported to hybridize with other willows, which causes problems in identification (Suda and Argus, 1968).

Numerous Ohio specimens labeled *Salix petiolaris* have been erroneously identified, or are too immature to identify correctly. The current knowledge of its range in Ohio may not be accurate.

Some authors treat this taxon under the name *S. gracilis* (see Synonym). Most recent authors treat it as *S. petiolaris*, as does Argus (1964), who briefly outlines the nomenclatural and taxonomic controversy.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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