



photo: Arthur Haines

# PUSSY WILLOW

*Salix discolor*

Fast-growing many-stemmed shrub or small tree with shiny green leaves and silky, furry catkins that appear in late winter and early spring, ranging from white, to green, to brown.

## Growing Information

Sunlight Sun  
 Soil Type Damp  
 Height 12–15'  
 Flowering calendar February to March

## Benefits for Wildlife

Leaves Yes  
 Flowers Attracts butterflies, native bees, and other early-emergent insects  
 Fruit Yes  
 Seeds Yes  
 Host to 434 caterpillar species, including:  
 (common names) Mourning Cloak; Locust Underwing; Hourglass Furcula; White Furcula; Green Comma; Clymene Moth; Viceroy; Definite Tussock Moth; Small-eyed Sphinx; Interrupted Dagger Moth

## Benefits for People

- Cut back heavily every few years to encourage robust new growth
- In winter, cut twigs can be put in water and forced to flower in warm temperatures
- Easy to root from cuttings

## Natural Habitat

- Marsh, low-ground, stream banks

