



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.

## Benefits for Wildlife

- An early spring favorite of honey bees, mason bees, and mining bees
- Hummingbirds use the fuzz from catkins to line their nests

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

- Easy to root from cuttings
- 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

## Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Sun
<i>Soil Type</i>	Damp
<i>Height</i>	12-15'
<i>Width</i>	4-15'

*Flowering calendar*  
February to March

## Natural Habitat

- Marsh, low-ground, stream banks

