

Salix discolor

Native to Maine

Pussy Willow

Upland Forests, Fields, Waters edge, Developed Areas

Leaves



Robert H. Mohlenbrock, USDA



Look for leaves that are narrow (1 to 3 cm wide and 3 to 10 cm long), oval, and have edges with tiny teeth. The surface of the leaf is blue-green and the underside is silvery. The leaves alternate on the stem.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



xjy, www.flickr.com



Look for a shrub or tree up to 12 meters tall with fuzzy silver buds, called catkins, in the spring and blue-green leaves in the summer and fall.

Stem

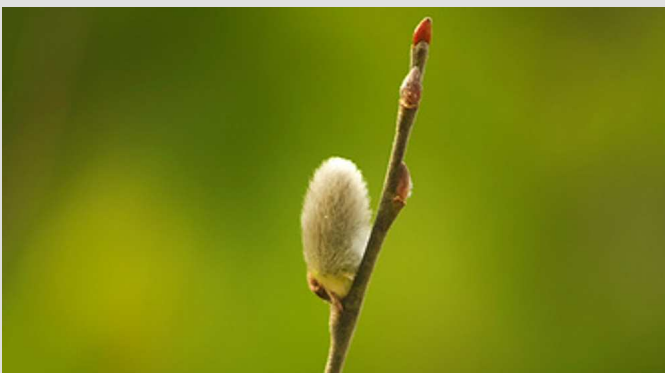


TEB47 1959, www.flickr.com



Look for bark that is gray-brown and smooth, becoming scaly with age.

Seasonal Change



negfoto, www.flickr.com



In March and April look for catkins (flowering buds). They look like tiny clusters of silvery fur. After May look for blue-green leaves with silvery undersides.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

The Pussy Willow is easy to tell apart from other species when the catkins (flowering buds) are present. When they are gone and leaves are full grown it can look like a small Birch or Alder tree. Look closely at the leaves, they are longer and thinner than Birch or Alder leaves.

Fun Fact

The Pussy Willow is thought of worldwide as a sign of spring. Like the Robin and Daffodil, the fuzzy catkins are one of the first signs of new growth at the end of winter.