

# 'SILVAR' COYOTE WILLOW

**Scientific Name:** *Salix exigua* Nutt. spp. *exigua*

**Common Name:** Coyote willow

**Cultivar Name:** 'Silvar' (9020099)

**Selected By:** Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

**Release Cooperators:** USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, The University of Idaho-AES, Washington State University-ARC, Oregon State University-AES

**Release Date:** 1993, Public Release

**COLD HARDINESS ZONE (USDA, 1990):** 5a,5b,6a,6b,and 7a.

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**ORIGIN:** 'Silvar' coyote willow is a deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing along the Tucannon River, near Starbuck, Washington at an elevation of 560 feet.

**DESCRIPTION:** Mature plant height is 22 feet and canopy width is 18 feet at Pullman, Washington. 'Silvar' is thicket forming, suckering, with pale blue-green silvery leaves and silvery pubescent twigs. The leaves are simple, entire, alternate and average four inches long, 5/16 inches wide, and are persistently hairy. Staminate and pistillate catkins appear after the first leaves. Willow pollen is an important food source in the spring for honeybees.

**DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS:** No disease or pest of this willow has been noted by the PMC.

**SEED PRODUCTION:** Coyote willow will establish naturally by seed, however, the more common way is by hardwood cuttings taken in late winter. Harwood cuttings of

'Silvar' coyote willow are available in limited quantities for increase to growers and nurseries from the Pullman Plant Materials Center.

**SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:** 'Silvar' coyote willow grows in moist sands and gravel, with minor inclusions of sandy loam, and requires a minimum of 20 to 25 inches annual precipitation.

**CONSERVATION USES:** 'Silvar' is used in conservation for streambank stabilization, riparian site restoration, bioengineering projects, wildlife habitat, and shelterbelts. Other uses are for erosion control and promotion of native plant diversity.

**AVAILABILITY:** For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email [crowder@wsu.edu](mailto:crowder@wsu.edu).