

# 'RIVAR' MACKENZIE WILLOW

**Scientific Name:** *Salix eriocephala*

**Common Name:** Mackenzie willow

**Cultivar Name:** 'Rivar' (9020100)

**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:** 'Rivar' Mackenzie willow is a deciduous shrub originating from native plants growing along the Tucannon River, near Starbuck, Washington at an elevation of 800 feet.

**DESCRIPTION:** One to two year old stems on the dormant plants have reddish-brown bark; on older stems the bark is gray. The leaves are simple, entire, alternate and average five inches long, 5/8 inch wide. The leaves are usually lanceolate with finely toothed margins. Staminate and pistillate catkins appear in the spring after the first leaves. Mature plant height is 12 feet and canopy width is 15 feet at Pullman, Washington. 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:** Mackenzie willow will establish naturally by seed, however, the more common way is by hardwood cuttings taken in late winter. Hardwood cuttings of 'Rivar' Mackenzie willow are available in limited quantities for increase to growers and nurseries from the Pullman Plant Materials Center.

**SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS:** 'Rivar' Mackenzie willow has a rapid growth rate and will grow in moist sands and gravel, with minor inclusions of silt loam, and requires a minimum of 20 to 25 inches annual precipitation.

**CONSERVATION USES:** 'Rivar' is used in conservation plantings for streambank stabilization, riparian site restoration, landscaping, 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).