

The Black Willow

The Black Willow, like other members of the willow family, is not a strong, sturdy tree. No one would think of felling and trimming it into planks and beams. It just isn't straight and stout enough to give us fine lumber.

It is an attractive tree, though, and helpful, too. The job it does best is to hold soil together. Where Black Willows sink their



©National Wildlife Federation
Black Willow

roots, it is harder for spattering rain and flowing water to wash away valuable dirt.

Even the wood of the Black Willow is useful at times. Although it isn't what builders want, it is good for making excelsior, boxes, crates, baskets, and wicker furniture.

The chances are that you have seen this tree, because it grows in so many parts of the United States. The National Wildlife

Federation reports that Black Willows are common over most of the eastern half of the country. There aren't so many of them farther west, but they do grow in spots all the way to California.

The most likely place to find them is along streams and in other wet places where there is plenty of light. They thrive from sea level to altitudes of 2,000 feet or more.

Where it has enough moisture and sunshine, the Black Willow reaches full growth at fifty to seventy years of age. By that time, it may stand a hundred or more feet in height.

Except in winter, when its leaves are gone, the tree is thick and green with long, slender twigs. Filling the twigs are the narrow green leaves which are trademark of a willow tree.

The Black Willow's leaves measure from three to five inches in length, and taper down to a fine point. They are a shining yellow-green on both sides—a bit darker on the top than on the bottom.

In the spring, clusters of tiny flowers grow among the leaves. The flowers hang in tassels which are from one to four inches long. When the tassels ripen, they shed cottony seeds.

Wind and water carry the seeds far and wide. They soon begin to sprout tiny fibres which take hold of the soil and hang on. Some of the seeds win the battle for survival and slowly grow into trees.

But this isn't the only way that Black Willows get a start. According to the National Wildlife Federation, twigs often drop from the big trees and lodge along the banks of streams. Sticking in the mud, the end of a twig takes root and begins to grow. It, too, may become a full-size Black Willow.

Interesting information on other wildlife species can be obtained by writing to the Na-

tional Wildlife Federation, Washington, D. C.

LOCAL NEWS

Attorney and Mrs. Ed F. Ackley returned early last week from a business trip which took them over much of eastern Oregon and to New Plymouth, Idaho.

H. J. Weigel left Friday for Portland to undergo medical treatment for an old back injury which has been bothering him for some time.

A driver's license examiner will be at the Grange hall in Harbor on Thursday, August 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. Anyone interested in taking the examination should be at the hall well ahead of the closing hour so that they will have time to complete tests.

A. C. Thompson has been brought home from the Seaside hospital, but must remain in bed for some time. He was in the hospital about two weeks.

Mrs. Lulu Moore of McMinnville was a Brookings and Harbor visitor last week, where she visited her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hurst, and also Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kennedy. She has gone on to Eureka to visit another daughter. Mrs. Moore is an old-time resident of the area.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cavitt of Elm, Mont., are visiting the home of Mrs. Cavitt's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Newton, and other relatives. Mrs. Cavitt will be remembered as Norma Holland.



A fractured arm was the result of a horseback accident for Georgie Mackey this week. She was a patient of Dr. White along with Barry Sage, who had a tonsilectomy, on Tuesday.

Mrs. Agnes White has sold her property at the north end of the Chetco River bridge to S. L. Goodson, who has taken possession. Mrs. White is making her home temporarily with Mrs. O. B. Clark near the Winchuck.

A six-pound, one-ounce son was born at the Brookings Clinic on August 11 to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gardner, and he has been named Rip Wayne.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Gardner are parents of a six-pound boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Baker and family left the latter part of last week for Timber Lodge, S. Dak., where they are purchasing a ranch. They have been on the Vogel ranch up the Winchuck for the past two years. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wallace will be in charge of the ranch for a few

weeks until the new manager arrives from Sacramento to take over.

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