

FACT SHEET

'S25' *Salix eriocephala*

'S25' is a member of the North American native species, *Salix eriocephala*. The disease resistance and high biomass production of this species makes it well suited for streambank restoration, riparian buffers, privacy hedges, biomass plantations, and ornamental plantings.





Botanical Name: *Salix eriocephala* 'S25'
(Family: Salicaceae)

Hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zones 4 - 6

Origins: 'S25' was produced through controlled breeding at the University of Toronto as part of a research project to develop new willow cultivars that generate high biomass yields on a variety of sites, display resistance to diseases and pests, and possess agronomic traits suitable for mechanical planting, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. 'S25' was produced by crossing *S. eriocephala* '16' with *S. eriocephala* '276'.

Significance: 'S25' is a shrub willow cultivar displaying rapid growth, annually produces 4-6 dry tons of woody biomass per acre in yield trials, displays low incidence of damage by sawfly or potato leaf hopper, and moderate susceptibility to rust and deer/rabbit browse. Woody stems can be harvested every three to four years, and new shoots will re-sprout the following season. Repeated harvesting of shrub willow plantations can be sustained for at least 15 years.

Description:

Height and Width: 15-20 feet tall, 3-5 foot crown spread at 3 years when grown at 2 x 3 foot spacing.

Habit: Fast-growing, deciduous shrub with multiple small-diameter, vertical stems.

Foliage: Dark green oblong leaves with stipules, typically 2-3 inches long, 1-1.5 inches wide, with foliage April through October in Zone 5.

Bark: Brown when young, turning green and slightly rough with age; light orange buds in winter.

Flowers: Female, early spring.

Seeds: Viable seeds produced early spring.

Culture: Adaptable to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions. Prefers maximum sunlight.

Propagation: Roots easily from dormant stem cuttings.

Uses: Excellent for biomass plantings, streambank restoration, riparian buffers, privacy hedges, and in ornamental plantings. Dried stems can be used in basketry.

Availability: Available from Double A Willow (www.doubleawillow.com)

Originally published 2007 by SUNY-ESF

Kimberly D. Cameron¹, Lawrence Smart^{1*}, Benjamin Ballard², Timothy Volk³, and Lawrence Abrahamson³

¹Dept. of Horticultural Sciences, ²SUNY at Morrisville, NY 13408, ³SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210

*Contact: lbs33@cornell.edu, 315-787-2490

Funding provided by New York Farm Viability Institute to LB Smart.

This variety is licensed by the research foundation of SUNY exclusively to Double A Willow

