

## *Salix eriocephala* 'S25'



The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) presents 'S25', a member of the North American native species, *Salix eriocephala*. 'S25' is moderately disease resistant, and a high biomass producer, so it is well suited for streambank restoration, riparian buffers, privacy hedges, biomass plantations, and ornamental plantings.



# *Salix eriocephala* 'S25'



Photo by Kimberly Cameron

**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, 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:** 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](http://www.doubleawillow.com)) beginning Spring 2007.

For information on the SUNY-ESF Willow Biomass Program go to [www.esf.edu/willow](http://www.esf.edu/willow).

Fact sheet prepared by Kimberly Cameron, Lawrence Smart, Benjamin Ballard, Timothy Volk, and Lawrence Abrahamson.

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