

THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

AND

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

AND

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF THE RELEASE OF 'MULTNOMAH'
COLUMBIA RIVER WILLOW (Salix fluviatilis, Nutt.)

Notification of the naming and release of 'Multnomah' Columbia River willow.

'Multnomah' Columbia River willow, Salix fluviatilis, is a vegetatively propagated cultivar recommended for use in streambank and dredge spoil stabilization as well as the restoration of riparian areas. It has potential for use as native screens, wildlife habitat, natural area landscaping, and low maintenance plantings where thickets are desired. Columbia River willow is a threatened species restricted in its native range to sandbars and banks along the lower Columbia River and the mouths of related tributaries. As a colonizing, pioneer species, it does not tolerate shade.

'Multnomah' Columbia River willow is a medium shrub 2-6 meters (m) [6-20 feet] tall with an upright, compact form and suckering habit. Leaves are relatively long and narrow with many small, scattered teeth along the edges. Flowering occurs in April or early May. The name refers to Multnomah County, Oregon where the material was originally collected.

Origin: 'Multnomah' is a selection from a native stand on the east bank of the Sandy River near Portland, Oregon. Cuttings were first obtained from the site June, 1980 by Jack Carlson and Jack Peterson of the Soil Conservation Service. After testing, four uniform plants were chosen by SCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center to provide the source material for the foundation cutting block established in 1984.

Description: 'Multnomah' Columbia River willow is a multistemmed, medium shrub, 2-6 m in height with a compact form, upright slender branches, and the ability to spread from underground root sprouts. The bark is scaly and grayish brown. Young twigs are slightly pubescent to glabrous and green with red tinges or brown. Leaves are alternate, subsessile, and lanceolate, lance-linear to linear-elliptic in shape. They are clothed with fine, appressed hairs (sericeous) above and below, slightly glaucous beneath, 5-13 centimeters (cm) in length, 0.5-1.8 cm wide, 5 to 15 times longer than wide, with scattered, small teeth on the margins; stipules minute and soon absent; plants dioecious; catkins short (3-8 cm) and born at the end of leafy branchlets or peduncles; stamens 2 per male flower; flower scales yellow and hairy. Catkins appear in April or early May after the leaves have expanded. Leaves are deciduous, falling by early December.

Positive identification of 'Multnomah' Columbia River willow as S. fluviatilis Nutt. was obtained from Dr. La Rea Johnston, Assistant Curator, Oregon State University Herbarium, Corvallis, Oregon.

'Multnomah' was first assigned the SCS accession number 9019469. In January, 1987 it was officially designated PI-508553 under the name S. fluviatilis.

Adaptation: 'Multnomah' Columbia River willow is known to be adapted to sandbars and the banks of streams, ponds, and lakes at low elevations in northwestern Oregon and southwestern Washington. Potential area of adaptation includes riparian areas or moist sites in valleys west of the Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington where precipitation exceeds 1000 mm (40 inches) per year. S. fluviatilis is a threatened species indigenous only to riverbanks or the shores of lowland ponds and streams in the immediate vicinity of the lower Columbia River, from the mouth of Deschutes to Westport, Oregon. While frequently occurring on moist sand and gravel overladen with silt, it should tolerate most drainage and soil textural classes. This species prefers full sunlight.

Performance: 'Multnomah' or 9019469 was 1 of 24 accessions or clones of Columbia River willow evaluated from an assembly in 1979-80. By 1984, it was the best of 6 surviving accessions. Accession 9019469 was chosen because of its compact form, uniformity, attractive foliage, ability to spread from roots, and apparent freedom from serious disease pests. 'Multnomah' attained a height of 1.2 m (4.0 feet) after 3 years and 1.8 m (6 feet) in 6 years on a nonirrigated upland soil at the Corvallis Plant Materials Center (40 inch ppt.). In field tests, 9019469 demonstrated rapid initial growth. Data from 6 field plantings under low maintenance indicates a survival rate of 63 percent. Higher rates are possible where sites are protected during establishment and good growing conditions exist.

Propagation: 'Multnomah' Columbia River willow is a vegetatively propagated cultivar. Fifteen to 20 cm (6-8 inch) cuttings, 6-13 mm (1/4 to 1/2 inch) in diameter, will root readily in moist potting medium under greenhouse conditions. Thirty to 50 cm (12-20 inch) cuttings planted directly into the field will grow if adequate moisture exists and proper site preparation and planting techniques are employed.

Material Distribution: Foundation stock will be available January, 1989 in limited quantities to commercial nurseries, agricultural experiment stations, researchers, and arboreta through the Oregon State University Seed and Plant Certification Program, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. The USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, 3420 NE Granger, Corvallis, Oregon 97330 will maintain original mother plants for supplying certified stock. Material should be available commercially by January, 1991.

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10-19-88
Date

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