

THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

AND

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

AND

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

AND

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'Palouse'
Lemmon's willow, Salix lemmonii Bebb.

'Palouse' Lemmon's willow, Salix lemmonii Bebb. is a vegetatively propagated cultivar recommended for use in conservation plantings for riparian zone vegetation, erosion control, water quality and wildlife habitat enhancement. Other potential uses include native plant community restoration and field windbreaks.

'Palouse' is a deciduous native shrub that has numerous low-growing branches. The younger stems have greenish bark.

This cultivar is named 'Palouse' because the ecotype naturally occurs in portions of "the Palouse" region of northern Oregon,

WILDLIFE USES: Willows are very important to wildlife for browse and cover for species like elk, moose, deer and rabbits. They are a good winter food source for bud-eating species like ruffed grouse. Willows also provide shade and some cover along streams and creeks to fish; and are an excellent source of early spring pollen for honeybees.

ORIGIN: 'Palouse' Lemmon's willow was collected in the winter of 1980 from indigenous plants growing near Redmond, Oregon. The riparian collection site is at an elevation of 2500 feet (762m). The soil is moist, well-drained sand and gravel, with minor inclusions of silt loam.

DESCRIPTION: 'Palouse' produces numerous stems and abundant leaves. It is fairly easy to propagate by dormant hardwood cuttings. Mature plant height is 19.7 feet (6m) and canopy width is 36.1 feet (11m) at Pullman, Washington.

Leaves are simple, entire, alternate and average 10.5cm long and 2.2cm wide. Stipules are minute or inconspicuous. Staminate and pistillate catkins appear before the first leaves.

No disease of this willow or toxicity problems to animals have been noted. Willow pollen is an important food source in the spring for bees.

ADAPTATION: Lemmon's willow is a native species, ranging from eastern Oregon, and California, east to Idaho and Montana, south to Nevada; may occur in Utah and Colorado. It is found in riparian habitats at middle to high elevations, usually on moist, well-drained benches and bottomlands. This willow is adapted to a wide range of moist soils including: well-drained gravel or sand; wet, fine-textured loam; or coarse soils near the water table. It requires a minimum of 20 to 25 inches (500-650mm) annual precipitation.

'Palouse' is adapted to moist, medium to coarse-textured soils, middle to high elevations in eastern Oregon and Idaho. It has grown well at the Pullman Plant Materials Center (PMC) with an average growing season of 160 days and 21 inches (533mm) annual precipitation at 2550 feet (778m) elevation. This willow also appears to be adapted to moist soils in eastern Washington, although it is not reported to be native to the state.

PERFORMANCE: The Soil Conservation Service has evaluated the performance of 'Palouse' Lemmon's willow at the Pullman PMC and other locations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah. The original initial evaluation planting at Pullman comparatively tested 155 willow accessions. 'Palouse' was selected for its stem and foliage abundance, excellent vigor and growth. This selection is considered resistant to adverse factors such as cold and heat in its area of adaptation. Disease and pests have not been problems in these evaluations.

Average spring recovery at the Pullman PMC begins about March 19, bloom date is March 18, plants are dormant usually November 1, and leaf fall occurs about November 5.

PROPAGATION: 'Palouse' is vegetatively propagated with dormant hardwood cuttings. Cuttings should be six inches (15cm) long and 3/8 inch (1cm) in diameter. Hormone treatment for rooting is not considered necessary. Cuttings are placed in cone-tainers in artificial media of 40% peat, 30% perlite and 30% vermiculite, watered and grown under greenhouse conditions. Adequately rooted transplants should be ready in about 90 days.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION: The USDA Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Pullman, WA will maintain the original genetic plant material and provide limited stock of hardwood cuttings to be used for further increase,

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