

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 'CURLEW'  
Drummond willow, Salix drummondiana Barratt EX Hook.

'Curlew' Drummond willow, Salix drummondiana Barratt EX Hook. 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 ornamental landscaping.

This cultivar is named 'Curlew' because the ecotype **was** collected in the proximity of Curlew Creek, Ferry County, Washington.

'Curlew' is a deciduous native shrub that is relatively **low-**growing. It has striking yellow to yellow-orange stems, which provide appeal for ornamental uses.

ORIGIN: 'Curlew' Drummond willow was collected in the winter of 1980 from indigenous plants growing near Republic, Washington. The riparian collection site is at an elevation of 2135 feet (651m). The soil is moist sands and gravel, with inclusions of sandy loam.

DESCRIPTION: 'Curlew' produces numerous stems and abundant leaves. It is fairly easy to propagate by dormant hardwood cuttings. Mature plant height is 9.2 feet (2.8m) and canopy width is 15.1 feet (4.6m) at Pullman, Washington.

Leaves are simple, entire, alternate and average 10.5cm long and 2.2cm wide. Leaves have silvery-velvety lower leaf pubescence with upper surface green. Staminate and

pistillate catkins appear in the spring before or with the first leaves.

'Curlew' Drummond willow is tolerant to the cold and heat in eastern Washington. No disease of this willow or toxicity problems to animals have been noted. The pollen is an important food source in the spring for bees.

ADAPTATION: Drummond willow is a native species, ranging from eastern Washington and Oregon, British Columbia, Alberta, California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and east across southern Canada and northern USA to the Atlantic Ocean. It occurs along streambanks and moist meadows, less often on open slopes, from foothills to moderately high elevations in the mountains. It does not tolerate shade and requires a minimum of 20 to 25 inches (500-650mm) annual precipitation.

'Curlew' is adapted to moist, coarse-textured soils in eastern Washington, 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.

PERFORMANCE: The Soil Conservation Service has evaluated the performance of 'Curlew' Drummond 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. 'Curlew' was selected for its stem and foliage abundance along with lower mature plant height. It 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 26, bloom date is March 18, plants are dormant usually October 13, and leaf fall occurs about October 21.

PROPAGATION: 'Curlew' 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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