Red Willow

Salicaceae

*Salix laevigata*

Native to California and is also found outside of California, but is confined to western North America.

Provides streamside erosion control. Traps sediments and nutrients from surface runoff and prevents them from entering the aquatic system.

**Historical Uses:**
This willow had many uses for Native Americans; the branches were used as flexible poles and building materials, the smaller twigs were used to make baskets, the bark was made into cord and string, and the bark and leaves had several medicinal uses.

**Native Distribution:**
Native to California and is also found outside of California, but is confined to western North America.

**Elevation:**
Between 0 and 5000 feet

**Plant Communities:**
Yellow Pine Forest, Foothill woodland, Chaparral, Valley Grassland, Wetland-riparian

**Habitat:**
Streambanks

**In the Garden**

Red willow is a 10-25' fast growing deciduous tree.

Usually a straight unbranched trunk with the slender branches producing a well formed crown.

The leaves are very finely toothed, light shiny green above, whitish below, with conspicuous yellow mid-veins seen mostly on the upper surface.

**Sun:** Full Sun, Part Shade

**Water:** Moderate, High

**Soil:** Sand

**Other:** Attracts Bees, Attracts Birds, Erosion Control

Ecological Value:
Provides streamside erosion control. Traps sediments and nutrients from surface runoff and prevents them from entering the aquatic system.