

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



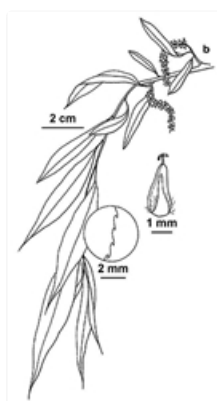
Female catkin. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Black Mountain Peninsula, Canberra, ACT



Seedling female catkin. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Lake George south of Goulburn



Tree in summer colours. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Lake George south of Goulburn



Line drawings. b. flowering branchlet (female); catkin scale and ovary. M.Mbir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Weeping Willow, Peking Willow

Family

Salicaceae

Where found

Stream banks and around dams. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced deciduous tree to about 30 m high. Branchlets hanging down. Bark grey to grey-brown, deeply furrowed with age. Twigs initially hairy, soon hairless, yellow-brown to grey-brown. Leaves **alternating** down the stems, 5–18 cm long, 5–25 mm wide, more or less hairless, deep green above, somewhat **glaucous** to glaucous below; tips very long-pointed; margins shallowly toothed; **stipules** with stalkless **glands** at the base. Male and female flowers on different plants. Female flowers small, with 0 **petals**, in cylindrical many-flowered clusters (**catkins**), 6–28 mm long, about 5 mm in diameter, elongating slightly at the seeding stage, appearing with the new leaves. Male plants not in Australia. Seeds produced are either unfertilised or results of hybridisation with other species. Flowers Aug–Oct.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW.

It is one of the few species of *Salix* that are not included in the Weeds of National Significance listing for this group. However it hybridises with many other willows, the resulting hybrids sometimes being very invasive.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Salix~babylonica> (accessed 5 February, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.



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