

# Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male catkins. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Cotter River, Canberra, ACT



Leafy branches. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, ACT



Multitrunked tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Murrumbidgee River north of Cooma

## Common name

Crack Willow

## Family

Salicaceae

## Where found

Along streams, lake margins, and swamps. Widespread.

## Notes

**Introduced deciduous** tree to 25 m high, **spreading**. Bark smooth when young, eventually becoming rough and coarsely furrowed. Younger stems sparsely hairy, soon become hairless, brittle at the base and readily detached. Each piece that breaks off is potentially able to form a new plant. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 5.5–18.5 cm long, 15–45 mm wide, at first **silky** on both sides, dark green above, **glaucous** below, margins coarsely and irregularly **glandular**-toothed. tips gradually tapering to a point. Male and female flowers on different plants. Individual flowers often small, with 0 **petals**, in cylindrical **catkins**, appearing with the new leaves. Male flowers greenish-yellow, catkins 40–80 mm long, 7–13 mm wide. The much less common female flowers greenish, catkins 55–80 mm long, up to 110 mm long at the seeding stage, about 7 mm wide. Flowers spring.

***Salix x fragilis* var. *fragilis*** in PlantNET.

Hybrids between ***Salix nigra*** and *Salix x fragilis* have been recorded from the tablelands.

A Weed of National Significance. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description (as ***Salix x fragilis* var. *fragilis***): <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Salix~x+fragilis+var.~fragilis> (accessed 14 April 2021)

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