

***Salix laevigata* Bebb**

[*Salix bonplandiana* var. *laevigata* (Bebb) Dorn, *S. laevigata* var. *angustifolia* Bebb, *S. laevigata* var. *araquipa* (Jepson) C.R. Ball, *S. laevigata* var. *congesta* Bebb]

Red Willow

Description: Broad-leaved, winter-deciduous tree to 15 m high. Twigs are red to yellow-brown, becoming glabrous. The young leaves are glabrous or white- or white-and-rusty-hairy; mature leaf blade 67-150 mm long, lanceolate to widely elliptic, glabrous, shiny to highly glossy above, glaucous below. The inflorescence appearing with or after the leaves, 35-110 mm long on leafy shoots 3-35 mm (shoot leaves are entire). Staminate flowers have 5 stamens, while pistillate flowers have a glabrous ovary. Flowers in March-May.

Habitat: riverbanks, seepage areas, lake shores, canyons, ditches; <1,700 m.

Distribution: Native to southern Oregon & northern Nevada, south through California, Arizona to northern Central America. Not in desert areas.

Landscape Position: All aspects, full sun or partial shade.

Landscape Attributes: Provides a light green medium-course texture, and winter-deciduous. This is a wetland tree, requiring irrigation. Tolerates full sun and shade. Generally with a single trunk. Yellowish and white “pussy willow” flowers when blooming in spring. Excellent tree for that wet lawn area, if a traditional lawn must be part of the landscape.

