Prairie Reflection Willow

Salix pentandra 'Silver Lake'

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Laurel Willow, Bay Willow

Description:

A prairie-tolerant selection of this rugged shade tree with very glossy, almost reflective dark green leaves, low branched and wide spreading; tolerant of alkaline soils and windswept locations, has an aggressive root system so do not plant near homes

Prairie Reflection Willow
Photo courtesy of North Dakota State University

Prairie Reflection Willow foliage
Photo courtesy of North Dakota State University

Ornamental Features

Prairie Reflection Willow has dark green deciduous foliage on a tree with a round habit of growth. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Prairie Reflection Willow is a dense deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a high maintenance tree that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Invasive

Prairie Reflection Willow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Hedges/Screening
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Prairie Reflection Willow will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.