

# 10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

## TREE INFO CARD

### Black Willow

*(Salix nigra)*

#### Get to know your tree:

The black willow is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, narrow, and finely-toothed leaves that are often curved. Fall leaf color is typically a yellowish-brown. Flowers are green or yellow catkins. Fruits are tiny seeds attached to cottony fluff, located inside of narrow, pointed capsules dangling on long stalks. Bark is smooth and dark brown on younger trees, and becomes roughly ridged with age. Black willows often have a crooked growth form and may be multi-stemmed. Twigs may droop, creating a weeping appearance.

#### Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter black willow provides approximately \$36.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 9 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger black willows, visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com).



## Fun facts about your tree:

The main ingredient in aspirin, salicylic acid, is derived from salicyln – a chemical compound found in the bark of willow trees!

The wood from black willows was once used for artificial limbs due to its light weight.



## Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Black willows grow to heights of 30-50 feet, with a spread of around 30-50 feet, though heights may reach 100 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does well in most soil types. It is sensitive to wind and can be prone to limb breakage, especially with age.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit [www.arborday.org/trees/planting](http://www.arborday.org/trees/planting). And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

## Care for your tree:

This species is not tolerant of drought and will require frequent watering. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



[www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://www.a2gov.org/10ktrees)