PLANT FACT SHEET

Salix viminalis L.

GENUS *Salix* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES Common Osier, Basket willow, Silky osier

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: bark, Leaves

DESCRIPTION

A shrub which loses its leaves during the year. It grows to 10 m tall and often has several flexible stems. The leaves are very long and narrow. They are green on top and have dense silvery hairs underneath. They have a sharp point and without teeth. The edges often roll inwards on the underside. Male and female catkins grow on separate twigs. The fruit are capsules covered with down. The fruit do not have stalks.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It suits cool, moist soils. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 1,000 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 4-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed, by layering or by using cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 300 Salix species.

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