PLANT FACT SHEET

Salix babylonica L.

GENUS *Salix* **FAMILY** Salicaceae

COMMON NAMES Weeping willow

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: bark, Leaves, Manna, Leaves - tea

The young leaves, shoots and flower buds are parboiled and eaten.
The older leaves are used to adulterate tea.
The tree is the source of a manna like substance.

DESCRIPTION

A spreading tree. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 12 m tall. The end branches hang down. The trunk can be 75 cm across. The primary branches are brittle. The leaves are alternate. The leaves are 2-12 cm long by 0.5-2 cm wide. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers or catkins are of one sex.

HABITAT

It is a warm temperate plant. It is native to North China. It grows along rivers and near dams. In Argentina it grows from sea level to 900 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 5-10. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Plants are easily grown by cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 300 Salix species. Populus euphratica Oliv. is the willow of Babylon.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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