

Why do we need to identify?

- Ease of spread by twigs/branches
 - How brittle are the branches?



- Ease of hybridisation and spread by seed
 - Is it a tree or shrub willow?
 - Is it male or female or both?
 - Does it produce viable seed



How do you grow a willow?

Q: When sitting along a river, lazily fishing, how might you accidentally grow a new willow tree?

Clue: what do you lean your fishing rod on?

A: Stick a willow stem in the ground as a fishing rod holder

Willows grow easily from stems



Willow groupings

Genus: *Salix* (all willows)

Salix
“tree willows”

Chamaetia
“alpine willows”

Vetrix
“shrub willows”



'Trees' VS 'Shrubs'

Features to look for:

- form
- twigs / branches
- bark
- leaves
- catkins (flowers)



'Trees' - form

single - stemmed



multi-stemmed



'Trees' - form

weeping



upright



10-20m tall at full size

'Shrubs' - form

always multi-stemmed



**‘Shrubs’
always multi-stemmed**



**bark rather smooth (but
varies with age)**

'Trees' - bark

Generally rough or fissured



Tree - twigs/branches

- **Crack more easily**
 - Break off the twig/branch at its base



How easily and cleanly does it break?