

## Black Willow

*Salix nigra*



**Description:** Medium tree to 60 feet tall, 2 + feet diameter with a spreading, irregular, twiggy crown. Small branches usually drooping. Alternate, narrow lance-shaped leaves. Very slender, brittle twig buds with a single scale

**Leaves:** Alternate on twig, simple, formed on very short less than 1/4 in smooth stems, Often with paired leafy stipules “wings” at the base. Curved blades long to 6in, narrow to 3/4 in, Lance shaped finely tooth on edges bright green and shiny above, very pale green below. Turn yellow in autumn

**Bark:** very dark gray brown to Black and long, loose, vertical scales or thin plates. Deeply furrowed and Shaggy on Old trees

**Flowers:** unisexual on separate trees in early spring. male flowers yellow in hairy, crowded, slender, drooping clusters to 3 in long, female flowers green, urn-shaped, clusters shorter

**Fruits:** very small to 1/8 in, egg-shaped, red brown capsules in clusters each containing many tiny silky haired seeds. Seeds are wind scattered

**Habitat/Range:** Wet sites along stream banks, and low wet woods, and around pond or lake borders. Throughout Indiana