



Salix alba

So called because of the silky leaves that reflect light, it is a tree up to 15-20 m. high, while the trunk may reach a meter in diameter. The White Willow lives on the banks of rivers and lakes, on moist soil rich in nutrients and calcium salts.

Kingdom: Plantae
(unranked): Tracheobionta
(unranked): Spermatophyta
(unranked): Magnoliophyta
(unranked): Magnoliopsida
Order: Malpighiales
Family: Salicaceae
Genus: Salix
Species: *S. alba*

Scientific Classifications



Salix alba

THE LEAVES

The leaves are lanceolate-acuminate hairy on both faces of young people. The mature leaves have little hairy upper surface, below have thick hair that gives it a silvery appearance.



FLOWERS

The inflorescences consist of catkins, separated in male and female. The male catkins are up to 7 cm long, have two stamens and yellow anthers, the female catkins are stalked and more slender than the male.



FRUITS

The fruit capsules are made of subsessile that, when fully ripe, open into two parts freeing cotton seeds.

THE TRUNK

It grows up to 25 m, it has an open crown and flexible, thin, tough branches; the bark is yellowish or reddish-gray.

CURIOSITY

The wood of these plants has the advantage to not rot in moist soils and therefore these species are used in the reforestation of wetlands; it tolerates air pollution.

