

Bluestem Willow



Hardiness: Winter hardy to USDA Zone 2-8

Cold Hardy: Excellent

Drought Tolerance: Poor

Alkali Soil Tolerance: Excellent

Windbreak Suitability: Fair

Wildlife Benefit: Excellent

Mature Height: 12 ft

Mature Width: Variable

Growth Rate: Rapid

Highest Elevation: 9500 ft

Native to Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Western Texas; this and *S. exigua* are the only natives of that part of the country that we offer at this time (there's more in the nursery on trial). It is usually found by sunny streams at 5500-9500ft, but is equally at home near sea level in moist soils. The most distinguishing feature is the dark-red stems that are covered in a powdery white covering giving the impression that the stems are blue. It grows 8-10ft tall with very upright branches. Best if coppiced every 1-2 years.

USES: Great in a winter garden, winter containers and winter bouquets. The straight rods can be used for basket making and furniture if dried; also living structures if used fresh.