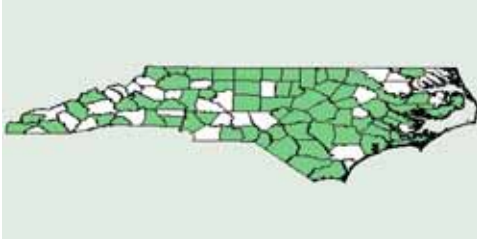


# **BLACK WILLOW**

Salix nigra

***AKA Gooding willow, southwestern black willow, Dudley willow***



**Description:** A small (sometimes shrub like) to a large deciduous tree. It is fast growing and may reach maturity within 30 years. The massive trunks are generally leaning and are often divided. The leaves are long, narrow, finely toothed and pointed.

**Natural Habitat:** Along river margins where it occupies the lower, wetter, and often less sandy sites. Common in swamps, sloughs, swales and drainage ditches.

**Size:** 50 ft. after 20 years, maturity 100 ft.

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Light:** Sun to Partial Shade, Light Shade

**Planting and Care:** Grows on almost any soil, but its extensive, shallow roots need an abundant and continuous supply of moisture during the growing season. It flourishes at, or slightly below, water level and is not appreciably damaged by flooding and silting.

**Landscape Usage:** Excellent for stabilizing eroding land.

**Commercial/Traditional Uses:** The wood was once used for artificial limbs, because it is lightweight, doesn't splinter easily, and holds its shape well. It is used for boxes and crates, furniture core stock, wooden novelties, charcoal, and pulp.

**Wildlife Benefits:** The yellow-bellied sapsucker feeds on sap from holes they peck through the bark.