

FACT SHEET

‘Millbrook’ *Salix purpurea* x *S. miyabeana*

‘Millbrook’ is a high-yielding shrub willow that is disease resistant, produces multiple small stems, and is aesthetically appealing. It is well suited for biomass plantings, privacy hedges, snowfences, and ornamental plantings.





Botanical Name: *Salix purpurea* × *S. miyabeana* 'Millbrook'
(Family: Salicaceae)

U.S. Plant Patent 17,646
issued April 24, 2007

Hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zones 4 - 6

Development: 'Millbrook' was produced through controlled willow breeding in 1999 as part of a research project to produce new willow cultivars that generate high biomass yields on a variety of sites, display resistance to diseases and pests, and possess agronomic traits suitable for mechanical planting, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. 'Millbrook' was produced by crossing *Salix purpurea* '95026' with *S. miyabeana* 'SX64' to produce the triploid Millbrook.

Significance: 'Millbrook' is a shrub willow cultivar displaying exceptionally rapid growth, producing greater than 4 dry tonnes per acre annually in field trials, and exhibiting low incidence of rust disease and low susceptibility to potato leaf hopper or beetle damage. Woody stems can be harvested every three to four years, and new shoots will re-sprout the following season. Repeated harvesting of shrub willow plantations can be sustained for at least 15 years.

Description:

Height and Width: 15-20 feet tall, 3-5 foot crown spread at 3 years when grown at 2 x 3 foot spacing.

Habit: Fast-growing, upright, deciduous shrub with multiple small-diameter, vertical stems.

Foliage: Green oblong leaves, typically 3-3.5 inches long, 0.5-1 inches wide, with foliage April through October in Zone 5.

Bark: Grey-orange when young, turning yellow-green with slightly rough bark and red lenticels with age; red-orange buds in winter.

Flowers: Female, early spring.

Seeds: Small number of viable seeds produced in early spring.

Culture: Adaptable to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions. Prefers maximum sunlight.

Propagation: Roots easily from dormant stem cuttings.

Uses: Excellent for bioenergy plantations, privacy hedges, living snow-fences, and ornamental plantings.

Availability: Available from Double A Willow (www.doubleawillow.com)

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