

FACT SHEET

'Otisco' *Salix viminalis* x *S. miyabeana*

'Otisco' 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 viminalis* × *S. miyabeana* 'Otisco'
(Family: Salicaceae)

US Plant Patent 17,997
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Hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zones 4 - 6

Development: 'Otisco' 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. 'Otisco' was produced by crossing diploid *Salix viminalis* 'SV2' with tetraploid *S. miyabeana* 'SX64'.

Significance: 'Otisco' is a shrub willow cultivar displaying exceptionally rapid growth, producing approximately 4 dry tonnes per acre annually and exhibiting low incidence of rust disease or damage by beetle or sawfly. 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 3-4 inches long, 0.5-1 inch wide, with foliage April through October in Zone 5.

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

Flowers: Male, early spring.

Seeds: No seeds produced.

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, living snowfences, privacy hedges and ornamental plantings.

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

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