

FACT SHEET

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

U.S. Plant Patent 24,537

'Preble' is a fast-growing hybrid shrub willow bred and selected for high biomass yield and pest and disease resistance. It has performed well across a wide range of sites and has agronomic traits suitable for efficient mechanical planting and harvesting.





Botanical Name: *Salix viminalis* × *S. miyabeana* 'Preble'
(Family: Salicaceae)

U.S. Plant Patent 24,537
Issued June 10, 2014

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

Development: 'Preble' was produced through controlled willow breeding in 2001 in Syracuse, NY, as part of a research project to produce new willow cultivars that generate high biomass yields on a variety of sites. 'Preble' displays resistance to diseases and pests and has agronomic traits suitable for mechanical planting and harvesting, and post-harvest processing. 'Preble' was produced by crossing *Salix viminalis* 'SV2' with *S. miyabeana* '9970-037' (a sibling of 'Canastota').

Significance: 'Preble' has outperformed most other cultivars in yield trials in IL, MI, NY, and VT, producing 2-6 dry tons per acre annually resulting in an 18% increase in maximum first-rotation yield compared to the previous best commercial cultivar, SX61. It displays low incidence of rust disease or damage by beetles or leaf sawfly. Woody stems can be harvested every three to four years with vigorous re-sprouting the following season. Repeated harvesting of shrub willow plantations can be sustained for at least 25 years. 'Preble' has grown so rapidly in some plantings that harvesting on a two-year cycle may be warranted.

Description:

Height and Width: 20-25 feet tall, 3-5 foot crown spread at 3 years when grown at 6,000 plants per acre.

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

Foliage: Green lanceolate leaves, typically 5-6 inches long, 0.8-1 inches wide, with foliage April through November in Zone 5.

Bark: Blue-green when young, turning greyed-green with age; greyed-orange buds in winter.

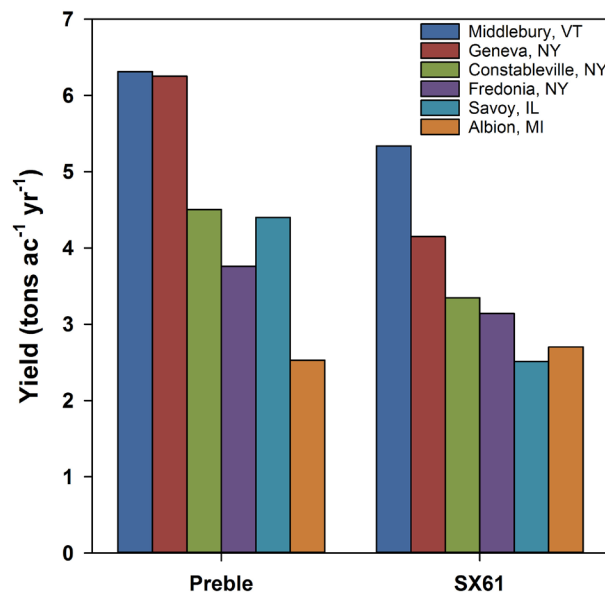
Flowers: Female, early spring.

Seeds: No seeds are produced because 'Preble' is a sterile triploid.

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

Propagation: Roots easily from dormant stem cuttings.

Uses: Excellent for bioenergy plantations, living snow-fences, and ornamental structures. Dried stems can be used in basketry.



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

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This project was partially supported by Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant No. 2012-68005-19703 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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