

LAND MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION TREES

Tangoio willow (NZ 1040 *Salix matsudana xalba*)

Main points

- very fast growth
- some drought tolerance
- highest leaf protein of willows
- very good for shelter belts
- smooth bark
- possum palatable

Description

The hybrid willows all grow faster than *Salix matsudana*, when soil moisture is good during summer. However, growth of Tangoio may be slower than other hybrids. Smooth bark, begins to roughen after 4-5 years' growth. It has a dense moderately spreading crown and light green leaves, similar to *S. Matsudana*.

Site tolerances

'Tangoio' is a wind tolerant tree and is not brittle. It has performed well in the South Island, suggesting tolerance of cooler conditions. This clone has performed better than the other hybrid willows in droughts, but like other willows, should not be planted in shallow soils (600 mm) or on dry and exposed sites.

Uses

- Soil conservation - 'Tangoio' is suitable for general soil conservation planting but, as a female clone, it should not be planted where seedlings could become a problem (eg. riverbanks). Shelter - It is one of two clones recommended for shelter belts (the other being Moutere'). The advantage of 'Tangoio' is its high wind tolerance and good retention

of lower branches.

- Fodder - Tangoio has recently been analysed as having the highest protein value of all tested willows.

Establishment

'Tangoio' is easy to grow from poles and cuttings. Cuttings used for shelter belt planting will need good weed control for the first year.

Management

No special management is required, however, if not used for fodder or shelter, trees may survive longer by pruning off all but a single main leader after 2-3 years' growth.

Pests and diseases

Lemon tree borer often attacks this clone without ill effect, but late spring flights of grass grub and manuka beetle can severely defoliate isolated trees. They usually recover quickly. Possums may find 'Tangoio' even more palatable than *S. matsudana*. Protect the tree from damage with one of several sleeve designs or use direct possum control.

For further information

For information on planting poplars or willows, ask for the other titles in this series or contact Hawke's Bay Regional Council Land Management Officers for advice.

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