

LAND MANAGEMENT

CONSERVATION TREES

Booth Willow (*PMC 249 Salix purpurea*)

Main points

- possum resistant
- retains smooth bark after sleeve bursts
- slower growth than *Salix matsudana*
- grows on low fertility soils
- good for river control planting

Description

'Booth' is a shrub or small tree which reaches 7-8 metres in height. It has a spreading form at maturity and the leaves are distinctive in that they are broader toward the tip. When grown from a 3 metre pole, 'Booth' can be quite an untidy tree and it is difficult to produce straight poles. Growth rate is slower than *Salix matsudana*.

Site tolerances

'Booth' is the only willow presently available which can be grown from a 3 metre pole while also being possum resistant. It is able to be established on low fertility soils (including shingles) and at higher altitudes.

Uses

- Soil conservation -useful where possums and low fertility soils are limitations. 'Booth' can be open planted in pasture amongst livestock, but it retains a smooth bark after bursting through pole sleeves making it prone to damage years after planting.

- River control - its adaptation to hard sites, flexible low branches and bitter leaves, make it ideal for river control planting.

Establishment

Trees are easily grown from poles or cuttings, taking care with moisture and weed control with smaller cuttings.

Management

'Booth' cuttings planted for riverbank or gully control may need no maintenance, but it may be beneficial to prune open planted poles to a single main leader. Additional protection from livestock may be needed after sleeves have burst.

Pests and diseases

'Booth' is not significantly affected by common pests and diseases.

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.

Wairoa 0-68388527

Guppy Road, Napier 0-68442495

Waipukurau 0-68588636

TOLL FREE 0800 108 838