


The Willow Tree



Salix

Willows are often planted on the borders of streams so that their interlacing roots may protect the bank against the action of the water. Frequently the roots are much larger than the stem which grows from them.

Medicinal:

The leaves and bark of the willow tree have been mentioned in ancient texts from the far East as a remedy for aches and fever. The Ancient Greek physician Hippocrates wrote about its medicinal properties in the 5th century BC. Native Americans across the American continent relied on it as a staple of their medical treatments. This is because they contain salicylic acid, the precursor to aspirin.

Wood:

Willow wood is used in the manufacture of a wide variety of objects, musical instruments and sports equipment.

In addition tannin, fibre, paper, rope and string, can be produced from the wood. Willows are also popular for Wicker (often from osiers), which is used in Basket weaving, fish traps, wattle fences and wattle and daub.

