

Key to the Willows (*Salix* spp.) of Santa Cruz County, California

- 1 Bud scale sharply pointed, free (overlapping edges on inside of bud). Leaves lanceolate, relatively thick, upper surface glossy dark green. Mostly found in South County along edges of lakes, ponds, and streams. *Salix laevigata* (red willow)
- 1' Bud scale rounded at tip, fused into a single unit (edges attached, caplike). Lvs various.
 - 2 Leaves lanceolate-attenuate, finely toothed; leaf petioles with wart-like glands near base of blade; glandular stipules prominent; often persistent. Second most common willow in County (after *S. lasiolepis*) in areas with high water table.
Salix lasiandra var. *lasiandra* (formerly *Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*) (shining willow)
 - 2' Leaves not sharply pointed; leaf petioles not as above.
 - 3 Rhizomatous shrubs forming dense clonal stands and leaves linear. Riparian. *Salix exigua* (narrow-leaved willow)
 - 3' Shrub or tree; not clonal. Leaves not linear.
 - 4 Mature leaves densely silver-velvety underneath; leaf tops dull dark-green with inset veins. Riparian and coast.
Salix sitchensis (Sitka willow)
 - 4' Mature leaves glabrous to sparsely pubescent underneath; leaf tops shiny.
 - 5 Leaves broad, distinctly obovate. Generally solitary in wooded upland habitats. Uncommon, but conspicuous in fall when leaves turn yellow.
Salix scouleriana (Scouler's willow)
 - 5' Leaves variable, but generally oblanceolate. Most common willow in County. Vigorous-grower in any moist habitat, especially along coast.
Salix lasiolepis (arroyo willow)