

Salix atrocinerea, Rusty Willow

This species is probably underreported due to the tough nature of willow identification. It was probably brought in as a landscaping tree and is a threat to coastal areas and wetlands in New York.

Population Status: Historical- Rensselaer Co.

Description: This tree can grow up to 50 feet tall and has smooth gray-green bark that has raised ridges in the wood. The branches of rusty willow are reddish to yellowish. The underside of the leaf can have hairs and prominent veins while the upper side is bright green and shiny. The fruiting structures of all willows are catkins which open to disperse seed by wind.

Control: Manual control of this species could be difficult. Attempt to pull up smaller seedlings and saplings.

Look-alikes: Other willow species can easily be confused with Rusty Willow. The common Pussy Willow (native) can be differentiated with the ridged bark pattern on mature stems and the hairy leaf undersides.

Flower Time and Description: Somewhat unclear, though it is said that the rusty willow creates flower buds which are smooth and red in autumn.

