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Salix purpurea

[Synonyms : *Salix caesifolia*, *Salix helip*, *Salix lambertiana*, *Salix morandra*, *Salix purpurea* var. *nana*]

PURPLE WILLOW is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native from Europe and the Mediterranean to Japan it has reddish or purple-tinged catkins.

It is also known as Basket willow, Bitter purple willow, Dwarf purple osier, *Helygen Gochlas* (Welsh), Osier, *Punapaju* (Finnish), Purple osier, Purple-osier willow, *Purpur-Weide* (German), Red willow, *Rödvide* (Swedish), *Vrba nachová* (Czech), and Willow.

Purpurea is Latin (purple-coloured) with reference to the shoots.

The leaves and bark have an extremely bitter taste thus it is carefully avoided by animals, particularly rabbits and cattle.

In some countries purple willow can be used for delicate basketwork.