

Salix matsudana

COMMON NAMES

tortured willow, twisted willow

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMILAR TAXA

A tree and shrub that is mostly deciduous (Department of Conservation 1996). Leaves are usually alternate, trunks sometimes lying down and rooting at the nodes (Department of Conservation 1996). The leaves are lanceolate or elliptic to oval and sometimes shallowly toothed (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that produces catkins (Department of Conservation 1996).

HABITAT

A tree often found in wet areas adjacent to, or in forest remnants (Porteus 1993). A plant that grows on riverbanks, lakesides, drainage canals and wet places (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that forms dense stands in rivers and drains (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that invades communities dominated by native plant species e.g. willow in manuka at Whangamarino (West 1993).

GENUS

Salix

FAMILY

Salicaceae

AUTHORITY

Salix matsudana Koidz.

YEAR NATURALISED

1983

ORIGIN

E. Siberia, N. China, Korea

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

There are many species in New Zealand but often only represented by a single clone (Department of Conservation 1996). The brittle and easily broken shoots grow extremely easily (*ibid.*).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to willow species and hybrids present in New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

SALMAT



Salix matsudana. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/02/2007, Licence: CC BY.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/salix-matsudana/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026