

Salix viminalis × *S. miyabeana* 'Otisco'

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) presents 'Otisco' shrub willow from their willow breeding program. 'Otisco' is a high-yielding shrub willow that is disease resistant, produces multiple small stems, and is aesthetically appealing. It is well suited for biomass plantings, privacy hedges, snowfences, and ornamental plantings.



Salix viminalis × *S. miyabeana* 'Otisco'



Botanical Name: *Salix viminalis* × *S. miyabeana* 'Otisco'

(Family: Salicaceae)

US Plant Patent 17,997

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Hardiness: U.S.D.A. Zones 4 - 6

Development: 'Otisco' was produced through controlled willow breeding in 1999 as part of a research project to produce new willow cultivars that generate high biomass yields on a variety of sites, display resistance to diseases and pests, and possess agronomic traits suitable for mechanical planting, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. 'Otisco' was produced by crossing *Salix viminalis* 'SV2' with *S. miyabeana* 'SX64'.

Significance: 'Otisco' is a shrub willow cultivar displaying exceptionally rapid growth, producing greater than 40% more woody biomass than production variety 'SX67' in a selection trial, and exhibiting low incidence of rust disease or damage by beetle or sawfly. Woody stems can be harvested every three to four years and new shoots will re-sprout the following season. Repeated harvesting of shrub willow plantations can be sustained for at least 15 years.

Description:

Height and Width: 15-20 feet tall, 3-5 foot crown spread at 3 years when grown at 2 x 3 foot spacing.

Habit: Fast-growing, upright, deciduous shrub with multiple small-diameter, vertical stems.

Foliage: Green oblong leaves, typically 3-4 inches long, 0.5-1 inch wide, with foliage April through October in Zone 5.

Bark: Grey-orange when young, turning yellow-green with slightly cracked bark with age; red-orange buds in winter.

Flowers: Male, early spring.

Seeds: No seeds produced.

Culture: Adaptable to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions. Prefers maximum sunlight.

Propagation: Roots easily from dormant stem cuttings.

Uses: Excellent for bioenergy plantations, living snowfences, privacy hedges and ornamental plantings.

Availability: Available from Double A Willow (www.doubleawillow.com) beginning Spring 2007.

For information on the SUNY-ESF Willow Biomass Program go to www.esf.edu/willow.

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