

## *Salix sachalinensis* 'SX61'



The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) presents 'SX61', a fast-growing shrub willow. 'SX61' produces high biomass yields, is disease and beetle resistant, and is well suited for biomass plantings, privacy hedges, and living structures.



# *Salix sachalinensis* 'SX61'



Photo by Kim Cameron

**Botanical Name:** *Salix sachalinensis* 'SX61'  
(Family: Salicaceae)

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

**Origin:** 'SX61' was obtained from the University of Toronto as part of a research project to develop new willow varieties 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. *S. sachalinensis* is native to Asia.

**Significance:** 'SX61' is a shrub willow cultivar displaying exceptionally rapid growth, produces 4-6 dry tons of woody biomass per acre in yield trials, and displays low incidence of rust disease or damage by beetle. 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, deciduous shrub with multiple small-diameter, vertical stems.

**Foliage:** Green oblong leaves, typically 3-3.5 inches long, 0.5-1 inches wide, with foliage April through October in Zone 5.

**Bark:** Three year old stem is slightly rough and grey-green in color.

**Flowers:** Female, early spring.

**Seeds:** Viable seeds produced in early spring.

**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, privacy hedges, living snow-fences and in ornamental plantings.

**Availability:** Available from Double A Willow ([www.doubleawillow.com](http://www.doubleawillow.com)) beginning Spring 2007.

For information on the SUNY-ESF Willow Biomass Program go to [www.esf.edu/willow](http://www.esf.edu/willow).

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