

Uses of Willow

Our hybrid willow is used for :-

- Wood Fuel And Biomass Production
- Shelterbelts, Screening & Hedging
- Game Cover & Creating Wildlife Habitats
- Erosion Control on Riverbanks and Sloping Sites
- Reclaiming Contaminated Land

Our hybrid varieties reach a maximum height of about 6 meters. In the first year the most vigorous grow up to 12 feet. They are easy to grow, hardy, exhibit good resistance to disease and have a high success rate. See our photographic diary of growth in the first year and our guide to planting.

When coppiced the willow throws out new growth from the bottom, ideally suited for windbreaks, screening off farm building or industrial areas, creating sound barriers, air pollution barriers and shade/shelter for poultry and other livestock.

Willow also makes great game cover.



Willow may be used in planting instant wildlife areas or attractive leisure settings, for instance for leisure parks, fishing parks, holiday complexes, picnic areas, play areas. Fedges, (living woven hedge created from full length unrooted willow rods) are especially good for instant visual impact. Willow Mazes can be established quickly and easily and cost less than many hedging stock. Maze kits are available from the online shop .Or contact us to price your own maze designs.

Some benefits of growing willow.

The habitat created by a willow plantation is very different to that found within conventional agricultural crops. Grown without pesticides or herbicides willow supports more insect

species than any other plant in the uk, most of which cause little damage to the willow. Many songbirds species are attracted to willow plantations, including some migrant warblers species that are becoming less common. Willow is also one of the earliest nectar producing plants making it a good companion for bees.

Growing willow is very good for taking up nitrogen and is ideal for tackling nitrate pollution in Nitrate Sensitive Areas or Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. Willow can also be planted along lower field margins and riparian zones to act as a buffer for retaining diffused pollutants draining from adjacent agricultural land. It will also thrive in soils which have low nitrogen levels.

Willow is commonly grown on wasteland to reclaim brown field sites and grown on old landfill sites. It is increasingly being used to take up heavy metals deposits on contaminated land.

Willow is used for stabilising river banks (spilling). Willow rods are driven into the ground at the bank edge and the willows fine vigorous root systems secure the ground in place. In a similar way, willow can be grown to stabilise ground on hillsides, to prevent soil erosion.

