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Native Willow to North East Scotland

These are the 13 species native to North East Scotland by the [National Biodiversity Network](#). Not included in this list are hybrids and naturalised species, all of which are still valuable habitats for many insects. The number next to each refers to the record from the [NESBReC website](#), highlighting the need for more species. Trees are listed in Latin Name alphabetical order.



[Eared Willow \(*Salix aurita*\)](#) - 571

Preferred Habitat: This species thrives in deep, acidic soil and tolerates poor drainage; it is often found in bogs and stream sides in the wild. Likes full sun.

Height: 2.5 - 4m

Identifying features: Look for the two small, ear-like leaf appendages, or stipules, at the base of each leaf stalk. Red-brown young stems, and crinkled, matt green leaves with woolly undersides and serrated edges. Catkins are produced before the leaves in spring

Flower: Spring

[Goat Willow \(*Salix caprea*\)](#) - 1,067

Preferred Habitat: It does not occur in dense groups, normally found scattered in woodlands. Grows in any deep moist well-drained soil.

Height: 8 - 12m

Identifying features: Similar to grey willow. Look for broad, oval leaves that are pointed with a bent tip and have a hairy underside. Other features include grey-brown bark that develops diamond-shaped fissures with age and reddish-yellow twigs that are hairy when young.

Flower: Spring



[Grey Willow \(*Salix cinerea*\)](#) - 3,141



Preferred Habitat: Grows in any deep, moist but well-drained soil. This is a moisture-loving tree that thrives in wet areas, but can tolerate dry conditions.

Height: 4 - 8m

Identifying features: Similar to goat willow. The bark is grey-brown and develops diamond-shaped fissures with age. Twigs are initially hairy but become smooth, and can appear red or yellow in sunlight.

Flower: Spring

[Dwarf Willow \(*Salix herbacea*\)](#) - 144



Preferred Habitat: Grow in any deep, moist but well-drained soil in full sun. Very tolerant of cold and exposed conditions.

Height: Up to 10cm

Identifying features: Forms a low mat of creeping stem, each with two or three small, broadly oval to round leaves. Leaves are glossy green. Flowers are small and reddish.

Flower: Spring, fruits in Summer

[Woolly Willow \(*Salix lanata*\)](#) - 5



Preferred Habitat: Easy to grow on most soils in sun or partial shade, producing a small compact bushy shrub.

Height: 1 - 1.5m

Identifying features: Look for a low, sturdy shrub with silvery-grey, woolly leaves that are hairy on both sides.

Flower: Spring



[Downy Willow \(*Salix lapponum*\)](#) - 19

Preferred Habitat: Grow in any deep, moist but well-drained soil in full sun.

Height: 1 - 1.5m

Identifying features: Look for a dense branching habit and downy grey-green leaves. Silky grey catkins produced before the leaves.

Flower: Spring

[Dark-leaved Willow \(*Salix myrsinifolia*\)](#) - 42

Preferred Habitat: Thrives in deep, moist but well-drained soil in full sun.

Height: 2.5 - 4m

Identifying features: Look for dark, glossy leaves with a serrated margin that have fine hairs on the top surface and are smooth underneath. Other key features include downy young stems, catkins appearing in spring alongside new leaves.

Flowers: Spring



[Whortle-leaved Willow \(*Salix myrsinifolia*\)](#) - 16

Preferred Habitat: This species thrives on deep, fertile, calcareous soils. It will tolerate a range of conditions, including poor drainage. Likes the full sun.

Height: 0.1 - 0.5m

Identifying features: Look for a compact, low-growing shrub with glossy, dark green, finely-toothed leaves. It features reddish-purple flower catkins in early summer or late spring, may have fine white hairs on young leaves, and tends to grow in a spreading or mat-like form.

Flower: Late spring to early Summer





[Bay Willow \(*Salix pentandra*\)](#) - 29

Preferred Habitat: Grows in moist, well-drained soil in full sun. Avoid alkaline soils

Height: 8 - 18m

Identifying features: The bark is dark grey in colour, with scaly, crossing ridges. Twigs are green-brown, glossy and smooth. It's oval leaves are thick, very glossy and dark green.

Flower: Late spring to Summer



[Tea-leaved Willow \(*Salix phyllicifolia*\)](#) - 99

Preferred Habitat: Thrives in deep, moist but well-drained soil in full sun; tolerates a range of soils and conditions.

Height: 2.5 - 4m

Identifying features: Look for smooth, reddish-brown young stems, and thin, glossy dark green leaves with greyish undersides. Catkins are produced before the leaves in spring.

Flower: Spring



[Purple Willow \(*Salix purpurea*\)](#) - 19

Preferred Habitat: Grows in any deep moist well-drained soil in full sun.

Height: 4 - 8m

Identifying features: Look for plants with opposite or almost opposite, long and narrow blue-green leaves that are hairless and glossy above. Key features also include reddish-purple or purplish-brown shoots that are slender and flexible.

Flower: Spring, fruits in summer



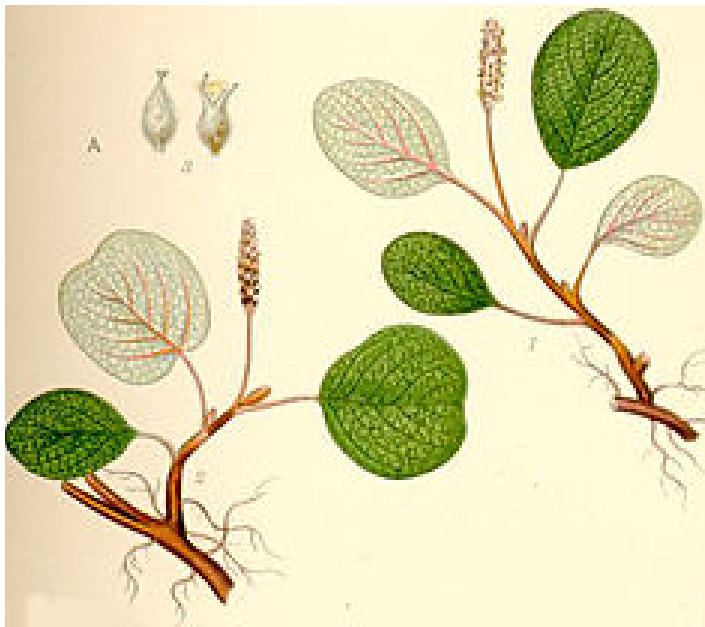
[Creeping Willow \(*Salix repens*\)](#) - 498

Preferred Habitat: Grows in any deep, moist soil in full sun. Often seen growing in wet heathland, grassland or sandy coastal areas.

Height: 0.5 - 1m

Identifying features: Look for a low-growing shrub with creeping stems and small, oval leaves that are green on top and silvery-hairy on the underside. Key features include soft, silky hairs on young shoots and leaves, and short, fluffy catkins (yellow-green or silvery) that appear before or with the leaves in spring.

Flower: Spring



[Net-leaved Willow \(*Salix reticulata*\)](#) - 3

Preferred Habitat: A dwarf, prostrate, slow-growing shrub for sun or partial shade. Likes moist but well-drained soil.

Height: Up to 10cm

Identifying features: Focus on its distinctive low-growing habit, leathery leaves with deeply impressed veins, and its habitat. This is a dwarf arctic-alpine willow, and these features make it quite different from other willows.

Flower: Spring