Salicaceae - willow family

*Populus trichocarpa*
black cottonwood

Sight ID characteristics

**Vegetative Features:**

- **Leaf:** Alternate, 3-6" long, variable shape - lanceolate on young growth to ovate, acute to acuminate apex, rounded to cordate base, crenate to serrate margin. Green above and pale whitish to yellow below, conspicuous fragrant resin. Round petiole and fine toothed in comparison to *P. deltoides*.
- **Bark:** smooth and grayish on younger trees, becoming gray-brown and furrowed on older trees.

**Reproductive Features:**

- Dioecious, male and female flowers in catkins. Fruit is ca. 1/4" long pubescent capsule with many comose seeds. Seeds are wind/water dispersed.
NOTES AND SKETCHES
Salicaceae - willow family
*Populus deltoides*
eastern cottonwood

**Sight ID characteristics**

**Vegetative Features:**
- **Leaf:** Alternate, 3-7” long, deltoid to ovate-deltoid, coarsely serrate margin (in comparison to *P. trichocarpa*), acute to acuminate apex, truncate to cordate base. Lustrous green above and pale below with a laterally flattened petiole, 2-5 finger like glands at base of leaf.
- **Bark:** smooth and yellowish on young trees, but becoming gray and furrowed on older trees.

**Reproductive Features:**
- Dioecious, male and female flowers in catkins. Fruit is a glabrous 3/8” capsule with many comose seeds.
NOTES AND SKETCHES
Salicaceae - willow family
*Populus tremuloides*
quaking aspen

### Sight ID characteristics

**Vegetative Features:**
- **Leaf:** Alternate, suborbicular to broadly ovate, crenate to serrate margin, acute to acuminate apex, rounded base. Petioles laterally flattened - causes leaves to "quake" in even a slight breeze.
- **Bark:** smooth from greenish white to cream colored, becoming darker and furrowed on lower portions of older trees.

**Reproductive Features:**
- Dioecious, male and female flowers borne in catkins. Fruit is a capsule approximately 1/4" long.
Salicaceae - willow family
*Populus alba*
silver poplar, white poplar

**Sight ID characteristics**

**Vegetative Features:**
- **Leaf:** Alternate, 2 1/2-4" long, dark green above with dense white pubescence below, variably 3-5 lobed, variously toothed margins. Vigorous growth is more prominently lobed. Petiole flattened.
- **Bark:** white and smooth on younger trees, becoming dark and furrowed on the lower trunk on older trees

**Reproductive Features:**
- Dioecious, male and female flowers borne in densely pubescent catkins. Fruit is an egg-shaped capsule with many comose seeds.
NOTES AND SKETCHES
Salicaceae - willow family
*Salix alba*
white willow, golden willow, weeping willow

Sight ID characteristics

Vegetative Features:

- **Leaf:** Alternate, 3-6” long, 3/8 to 1/2” wide, alternate, simple, very narrowly lance-shaped, finely serrated margin, yellow-green above, milky green below.
- **Leaf:** Slender, smooth, bright yellow twig, hanging or drooping for long distances, almost rope-like (cultivar “trisitis” - weeping willow); orange-yellow (golden), upright (var. *vitellina*); buds are small, appressed and covered by a single, cap-like scale. Terminal buds lacking.

European ornamental: escaped along waterways
Salicaceae - willow family

Salix exigua

coyote willow, sandbar willow

Sight ID characteristics

Vegetative Features:

- **Leaf:** Alternate, lanceolate to linear, 2-5” long, entire or with a few scattered teeth, green to gray-green above, paler below – generally with a silvery pubescence on both sides.
- **Twig:** slender, pale green to tan, reddish in winter, may be pubescent, buds covered by a single cap-like scale.
- **Bark:** silvery gray to gray-green

Reproductive Features:

- Dioecious; catkins 1-2 1/2”, on a slender 1 inch stem; fruit 1/4” pointed capsules with numerous comose seeds.
Salicaceae - willow family
Salix scouleriana
Scouler willow

Sight ID characteristics

Vegetative Features:
• Leaf: Alternate, obovate to spatulate, 3-5” long, margins usually entire, may have a few wavy teeth or revolute, often fan-like at ends of twigs, dark green above, paler below.
• Twig: slender, yellowish brown to red, with a single cap-like scale.
• Bark: gray to gray-brown, smooth with diamond shaped lenticels when young, later becoming shallowly fissured and scaly

Reproductive Features:
• Dioecious; catkins 1-2” long; fruit ¼” long-pointed, hairy capsules with numerous comose seeds.
NOTES AND SKETCHES