

Grey Willow

Regno: flora

Riparian and marsh woods

 [salixcapreapiant.jpg](#) [1]

Grey Willow - *Salix cinerea*

Local name: Vetrice or Vettrice

Small tree up to 9-12metres high, with trunk more or less branched from the base and irregular,



sparse crown.

[2]

Together with the Goat or Pussy Willow (*Salix caprea*) and other shrub species, it belongs to a distinct section of the *Salix* genus characterised by the particular consistency of their leaves, a little like those of sage but of a different colour, and of the high number of lenticels on the greenish-grey stem.

The upper leaf page is green and glabrous, the lower silvery-white and downy. The male catkins are very characteristic, the so-called "palms", which appear in plenty before the leaves.

The Grey Willow, widespread in alluvial plains and fresh water wetlands, can be recognised from the Goat or Pussy willow, a forest and montane species, by the little crest-like longitudinal prominences, which can only be seen by removing a small piece of bark, on its short, small branches.

But many authors consider the two willows as distinct sub-species within the "great species" in the *S. caprea* group. In the Tuscan marshes the Grey Willow is called "vettrice" or "basket willow" and is traditionally used for covering the permanent hides built for hunting water birds, the so-called "baskets".

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Links:

[1] http://www.zoneumidetoscane.it/sites/default/files/salixcapreapiant_0.jpg

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