

Getting A Willow Tree

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In my endeavors to become self-sufficient in the event of a social collapse, I have come to realize that certain plants and trees are a necessary requirement on my three-acre homestead. There are many beneficial trees and plants for survivalists to grow such as the balsam root, burdock, cattail, dandelion, grasses especially for the seeds, pine trees, juniper trees, thistle, willow and a host of other valuable products from the plant world. In this article I intend to concentrate upon the willow tree since it is one of my wife's favorite trees.

The willow can be purchased as either a bushy shrub or as a full tree. Either way they will still feature the characteristic narrow leaves that we are familiar with. In general, most willow trees are found close to a water source such as a pond or river however that is not a true and tried fact. It might not be convenient but it is possible to grow them in your yard away from a natural water source.

In a survival situation the young shoots and the leaves of the willow can be eaten raw or dried and ground into very fine flour. Needless to say, I intend to try this out to see for myself what kind of bread it will make. Other benefits of this great tree lay in its bark. The inner bark of the willow contains something known as salicin which acts similar to our common aspirin. After digesting a small sampling of the inner bark, it is supposed to reduce pain and the related inflammation. The tree is safe enough that if on the first application it did not relieve the symptoms you are free to try it again until it achieves the desired effect.

Another usefully trait of the willow is that you can construct arrows, fishing poles and shelters from its straight, flexible branches. Small branches can readily be woven into mats or useful baskets. Finding that this tree was so useful to my prepping requirements I decided to purchase one for my yard but ended up with twenty-four.

I ordered my tree from the EZ Grain Company. They seemed very reasonable in price. The beautiful willow hedge that I order can grow as tall as 50 feet however the average is approximately 30 feet tall. This wonderful tree is characterized by its long drooping branches with a light green color leaf. The costs were very reasonable considering what most other companies were charging. They came in packages of twelve each for \$16.00 dollars. I ordered two packages for a total of 24 trees. Most other growers which I encountered were selling the trees individually and range from a low of \$6.95 for a 1 to 2-foot tree to as much as \$79.95 for a 7 to 8 foot one. These trees are supposed to ship out of their location in Iowa within one day so we will see how long it takes to receive my order. My order stated that I should receive my shipment around the 16th of the month.