Willow Tree, Dappled

Salix integra 'Hakuro Nishiki (tree form)'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: S.i. 'Albomaculata', Dappled Willow

Description:

One of the showiest small trees for foliage color, new growth emerges soft pink and white, literally bathing the plant with color in spring, fades to white variegation in summer; should be pruned every winter for maximum effect; tough and adaptable



Willow Tree, Dappled in spring
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Willow Tree, Dappled has attractive white-variegated green foliage with hints of pink which emerges pink in spring on a tree with a distinctive lollipop-like form. The narrow leaves are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable fall color. The smooth bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Willow Tree, Dappled foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Willow Tree, Dappled is a deciduous tree, selected and trained to grow in a small tree-like form with the primary plant grafted high atop a standard. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Willow Tree, Dappled is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Willow Tree, Dappled will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This tree does best in partial shade to shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Willow Tree, Dappled is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.



Willow Tree, Dappled
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Willows produce catkins in spring Clean up of catkins and leaves is blowing or raking onto the lawn and mow or bag. In stronger winds smaller branches drop, clean up is pick up and bag. Willows like moist to wet soil, and their roots spread as far as the width of their canopy. The Dappled Willow is best if grown in afternoon shade so the leaves don't burn in the hot sunlight of summer.