



Crack Willow

Salix fragilis

- Woody Perennial
- Leaves are green and shiny from above, and white underneath
- Grows along waterways
- Spreads by vegetative propagation and seeds

**Cache County Vegetation
Management Division**

435-752-1562

jake.forsgren@cachecounty.gov

Suggested Control Methods for Crack Willow

Key Control Methods

Drill and Fill / Injection (Most Effective): Best for large trees to avoid felling. Drill holes downward into the sapwood at 45-degree angles around the trunk, spaced 2-3 cm apart, and fill with herbicide immediately (within 30 seconds).

Frilling and Painting: Chop into the sapwood around the circumference with a hatchet and apply herbicide to the cuts.

Cut Stump Method: Cut the tree close to the ground, then immediately paint the stump with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting.

Foliar Spraying: For small trees or dense, young growth, spray leaves during full growth, preferably with an aquatic-safe, glyphosate-based herbicide with a surfactant.

Physical Removal: Small, young seedlings can be hand-pulled or dug out, ensuring all root fragments are removed.

Crucial Considerations

Fragment Management: All cut branches and twigs must be removed from water or wet ground, as they will readily re-root.

Timing: The best time for chemical control is summer to autumn (when the plant is actively transporting nutrients down to the roots).

Follow-up: Re-treatments are essential for several years, as dormant fragments or missed roots will sprout.

Disposal: Burn or dispose of material away from waterways.

It is important to check local, regional council, or government regulations regarding herbicide use, particularly near water, and potential permits needed for willow control.