*Salix arctica* Pall.

SAAR27

Arctic willow

Rock willow

**Salix anglorum auct. non Cham.**

**Salix anglorum Cham. var. antiplasta C.K. Schneid.**

**Salix anglorum Cham. var. araioclada C.K. Schneid.**

**Salix anglorum Cham. var. kophophylla C.K. Schneid.**

**Salix arctica Pall. ssp. crassijulis (Trautv.) Skvort.**

**Salix arctica Pall. ssp. tortulosa (Trautv.) Hultén**

**Salix arctica Pall. var. antiplasta (C.K. Schneid.) Fernald**

**Salix arctica Pall. var. araioclada (C.K. Schneid.) Raup**

**Salix arctica Pall. var. brownei Andersson**

**Salix arctica Pall. var. kophophylla (C.K. Schneid.) Polunin**

**Salix arctica Pall. var. pallasii (Andersson) Kurtz**

**Salix arctica Pall. var. tortulosa (Trautv.) Raup**

**Salix arctica R. Br. ex Richardson, non Pall.**

**Salix brownei (Andersson) Bebb**

**Salix crassijulis Trautv.**

**Salix hudsonensis C.K. Schneid.**

**Salix pallasii Andersson**

**Salix pallasii Andersson var. crassijulis (Trautv.) Andersson**

**Salix tortulosa Trautv.**

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, deciduous, ovate to nearly round, to 2 inches long, edges entire; hairy or shiny green on top, lower surface long-hairy or glaucous with long hairs near the tip; stipules mostly absent.

**Flower:** Species is dioecious; showy yellow to purple catkins stand upright from the branch tips; up to 4 inches long; flowers lack petals; appearing with the new leaves.

**Fruit:** Small, silky, wind-dispersed seeds from tear-shaped capsules, develop and shed early in the growing season.

**Twig:** Yellow-brown to red-brown and glaucous.

**Bark:** Yellow-brown to red-brown and glaucous, weathering to gray.

**Form:** A small creeping and twisted shrub, up to 2 feet tall but commonly less than 6 inches tall; mat forming, often rooting at the branch tips.

Tidbits: The northernmost woody shrub, known to reach the limits on land in northern Greenland. There is a lot of morphological variability within this species, and there is quite a bit of taxonomic confusion. Not surprisingly, this is a very important food source for a wide variety of animals.

Range: Circumpolar, found well above tree-line on the tundra in northern Canada, Greenland, and Siberia; ranging south to Gaspe, Quebec and with scattered populations in the Rockies to Idaho