

## **Book Review**

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## V. I. Shaburov's ornamental hybrid willows for northern climates. An illustrated manual in two volumes for nurserymen, landscape designers, plant breeders and salicologists. A.M.Marchenko. Non-Stop Publishing House, Moscow, Russia. 2017. ISBN: 978-5-9909624-1-5. 308 pages.

The first volume of V.I.Shaburov's ornamental hybrid willows for northern climates has recently been published in the Russian language. It describes 30 ornamental cultivars, which were developed by V.I.Shaburov, a plant breeder who worked at the Botanic Gardens of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Yekaterinburg, Russia during the 20th century. The objective of Shaburov's hybridization was to develop ornamental willows, including weeping cultivars, which would be hardy in the cold climate of Yekaterinburg, a city situated on the border of Europe and Asia, on the eastern side of the Ural Mountains. In this region the winter lasts for about six months and the temperature may fall to -40 °C as the city is located at 56°N.



Alexander M.Marchenko became interested in willows while growing many other plants at his Water Plant Nursery near Moscow. In his book he describes first-hand experiences cultivating these hybrids for over 16 years. During this period the author also visited a few cities in Russia to observe mature specimens of these selections and collected extensive botanical information.

The 30 hybrids are divided into the following groups: yellow-orange-barked weeping willows, green-barked weeping willows, yellow-orange-barked fast-growing willows with a late weeping habit, green-barked with pendulous stems, hybrids with contorted stems, branches, branchlets and leaves, narrow-crowned long-leaved hybrids, laurus-leaved hybrids and hybrids suitable for both landscape use and weaving.



**Figure 1**. One of the most ornamental specimen trees, according to the author, is *Salix* 'Pamyati Bazhova' (cultivar name translates as "In memory of Bazhov": Pavel Bazhov was a Russian writer)



**Figure 2**. *Salix* 'Sharovidnyĭ Karlik' (cultivar name translates as "Globose Midget") – an outstanding selection created by V.I.Shaburov



**Figure** 3. A group of willows in a landscape composition during different seasons

This book contains detailed descriptions of the morphological and ornamental characteristics as well as cultural requirements for each cultivar. It is beautifully illustrated showing plant uses in various landscape settings and depicting each hybrid during all four seasons. In addition, many historical facts are included into the volume related to the chronology of hybridization work, explaining the etymology (the origin) of each epithet.

The purpose of this volume is to introduce these willow cultivars into trade and practice of landscape nurseries, designers and other professionals, especially in northern climates.

The book may be used by specialists and practitioners, students and teachers at academic institutions specializing in horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture and landscape design.

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