



***Salix babylonica* L.**

**Family:** Salicaceae

**Common names:** Weeping willow, Majnun, Mhjiuns



**Description:**

*Salix babylonica* is a moderate sized, short lived ornamental tree. The shoots of the plant are yellowish-brown, with small buds. The leaves are alternate and spirally arranged, narrow, light green, 4–16 cm long and 0.5–2 cm broad, with finely serrate margins having long acuminate tips. Leaves turn to golden-yellow in autumn. The flowers are arranged in catkins.

**Utilization:**

The plant is usually coppiced annually when grown for basket making. The extensive root system makes this species useful for binding soils. Edible parts of Weeping Willow is inner bark. It can be dried, ground into a powder and then added to cereal flour for use in making bread etc. It is a famine food that is only used when all else fails.

Part	Uses
leaves	antirheumatic, astringent and tonic
bark	treatment of skin eruptions

**References:**

- Joshi A. R AND Edington, J. M; (1990). The use of medicinal plants by two village communities in the central development region of Nepal. *Economic Botany*, 44(1), 71-83.
- Salem A. F. Z, Salem M. Z, Gonzalez-Ronquillo M, Camacho L. M, and Cipriano M; (2011). Major chemical constituents of *Leucaena leucocephala* and *Salix babylonica* leaf extracts. *Journal of Tropical Agriculture*, 49, 95-98.