The contortions of the Corkscrew Willow is the most notable feature; even the leaves are curled and twisted. Like many willows the leaves are alternate and narrow, coming to a slender point.

Salix matsudana cv. Tortuosa
Corkscrew Willow
Dragon’s Claw Willow

The younger shoots being more flexible exhibit the greatest degree of twisting, but all components of the tree, its stems and branches, are dramatically contorted.

The Corkscrew Willow is a cultivated variety of the Pekin or Hankow Willow. The catkins grow upright, about one inch long, and open in late April.

The contorted twisting of the branches, the stems and the leaves of the Corkscrew Willow make it a central specimen in many gardens. A tree of moderate size it grows to 30 feet, occasionally up to 50 feet high. Its contortions make this tree an attraction especially in wintertime.