

River Birch *Betula nigra*





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Description

River birch is a native deciduous, upright, flowering tree with cinnamon-brown, exfoliating bark and yellow fall foliage. It is the only native birch that does well in low elevations of the south. River birch prefers wet sites and does best in moist, acidic, sandy, or rocky, well-drained loam in full sun to part shade. The best foliage color occurs in full sun. River birch is adaptable and heat tolerant, wind resistant, and tolerates flooded conditions for extended periods of time. It needs little pruning, but if necessary, you can prune during the dormant season.

Dimensions: Height: 40 ft. 0 in. - 90 ft. 0 in. Width: 40 ft. 0 in. - 60 ft. 0 in.

Whole Plant Traits: Native Plant Deciduous, Multi-trunked

Growth Rate: Rapid

Light: Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day) Partial Shade (Direct sunlight only part of the day, 2-6 hours)

Hardiness Zone: 3b, 3a, 4a, 4b, 5b, 5a, 6b, 6a, 7b, 7a, 8b, 8a, 9b, 9a

Fruit Description: The tree produces a 1 to 1 1/2 inch cone-like aggregate which contains 3 tiny seeds. Small nutlet, about 400,000 seeds per pound, seed is shed in the spring.

Flower Description: The River Birch has light green, 2 to 3 inch slim, cylindrical flowers and fruiting staminate catkins 2 to 3 inches long that bloom in early spring.

Leaf Description: The leaf of the River Birch is 2 to 3.5 inches long with modest yellow fall color. Leaves are 0.75 to 2.5 inches wide, pointed, sharply acute, broadly cuneate to nearly truncate, glaucous with 7-9 veins underneath.

Bark Description: Provides winter interest. Smooth on young trees, salmon to rust-colored, develops papery scales. As the tree ages, bark divides into flat, scaly ridges. The bark peels away year-round in tough, paper-like layers that remain on the tree.

Attracts: Butterflies, Pollinators, Songbirds

Resistance To Challenges: Deer, Diseases, Drought, Fire, Heat, Pollution, Wet Soil, Wind



Information from:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cercis-canadensis/>