

Betula, Birch (*Betulaceae*)



nigra

Origin: Eastern United States. Deciduous tree, with conical-spreading crown. Hairy brownish-red bark, that flakes, becoming greyish-white or blackish. Green rhomboidal leaves, 8 cm, glaucous underside, yellow in autumn. Long male catkins, brownish-yellow in spring. Prefers damp soils, but will grow in dry ones. Withstands temporary flooding.

papyrifera, Paper Birch

Origin: USA. Pyramidal habit, straight trunk, bark stays white right up to the top. Deciduous leaves up to 10 cm long become bright yellow in autumn. Flowers: drooping catkins spotted with red. Very easy-going regarding soil, but prefers sandy-clay terrain, acid, damp, well drained.





pendula (B. alba) (B. verrucosa),
Common Silver Birch

Origin: Europe, Asia Minor. Deciduous tree with a trunk which is usually upright right to the top, surrounded by light branches which fall gracefully at the ends. Greyish-brown bark in the first 2-3 years which becomes chalk white and flakes off in very thin stripes. Oval, acuminate leaves, 3-6cm long, pale green, beautiful yellow in autumn. Flowers: in March-April in brownish-yellow hanging catkins. Very hardy, it adapts to all types of soil and tolerates extreme conditions of drought and humidity.

pendula "Fastigiata"

Deciduous tree with narrow, columnar crown. Strong branches, growing close to trunk, in spiral or bendy form. Leaves, fruit, growing requirements: like Betula pendula.





pendula "Youngii",
Young Weeping Birch

Origin: England. Variety of *B. pendula*, reproduced by grafting, its general shape depends on the point where the grafting is made. If grafting is done at the base, the trunk – if correctly staked at the nursery – will grow to 6-7m with weeping branches along the whole length which almost adhere to it. When the top of the tree no longer has a stake it bends and droops down to the ground. If grafting is done at the top it forms a rather irregular crown with branches which overlap each other in an arch with the tips bending towards the ground, often touching it. Leaves, bark, flowers and growing requirements the same as *B. pendula*.

utilis "Doorenbos" (*B. jacquemontii*),
Himalayan Birch

Origin: Himalayas. Deciduous tree naturally branched from the base or multi-stemmed. It can be trained into a tree with a clear stem and large, densely branched crown. The bark is brownish-yellow in the first years, later it becomes very white and flakes off in narrow stripes. Heart-shaped leaves, up to 12cm wide, dark green, yellow in autumn. Flowers: hanging catkins, 10-12cm long, yellowish-green, which form a month later than *B. pendula*. Tolerates all types of soil and grows well in dry and limestone soils.

