

River Birch
Betula nigra



Mature



Native Range

General Attributes

Type	Deciduous Tree
Height	30 - 50 Feet
Spread	25 - 40 Feet
Form	
Utility Lines	Incompatible
Growth Rate	Fast
Life Expectancy	Short
USDA Zone	3 - 8
Root Pattern	Shallow Lateral

Flowers/Foliage/Fruits

Flower Color	Yellow
Flower Season	Spring
Fruit	Strobile
Fruit Color	Tan
Fruit Season	Summer
Summer Texture	Medium
Winter Texture	Fine
Spring Foliage	Green
Summer Foliage	Green
Fall Foliage	Yellow
Winter Foliage	Not Applicable

Plant Community

Sun	Full Sun, Partial Sun
Orientation	North, South, East, West
Soil Texture	Sand to Clay
Topography	Upland, Lowland (Flood Prone), Lowland (Stable Water), Wetland
Plant Community	Forest
Succession	Pioneer
Origin	MSA Zone 1, MSA Zone 6, Minnesota, North America

Soils

Salt Spray Tolerance	Sensitive
Soil Salt Tolerance	Sensitive
Compaction Tolerance	Tolerant
Water Table	12 Inches
Drainage	Poor, Moderate
Flood Tolerance	
Drought Tolerance	Tolerant
Moisture Regime	Moist, Wet
pH	3.0 through 6.5
Windbreak Group	

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Planting Ease

Spring Bareroot	Difficult
Fall Bareroot	Difficult
Spring Container	Easy
Fall Container	Easy
Spring Seed	
Fall Seed	

Maintenance

Formal	Moderate
Informal	Low
2,4-D Tolerance	Sensitive
Dicamba Tolerance	Sensitive
Picloram Tolerance	Sensitive
Clpyralid Tolerance	
Artificial Light	Sensitive
Sulfur Dioxide	Sensitive
Ozone Tolerance	Tolerant
Hydrogen Flouride	
Nitrogen Oxide	

Pests/Problems

Allergens	males 7, females 7
Invasiveness	Non-Invasive
Toxicity	
Cold Injury	Not Susceptible
Storm Damage	Susceptible
Biological Control	
Mechanical Control	
Chemical Control	

Miscellaneous

Wildlife Rating	High
Insect Concerns	Major
Disease Concern	Minor
Wildlife Concerns	

Comments

Resistant to bronze birch borer. Prefers acid soil or develops iron chlorosis. Bleeds if pruned when sap flows. Most trouble-free birch. Use trees from local seed sources. Specimen tree often grown in clumps. Leaf miner is an aesthetic problem.



Bark



Dormant

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Fall



Flower



Immature



Leaf