

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



Betula papyrifera - Paper Birch

COMMON NAME: Paper birch, yellow birch, canoe birch.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: The genus is the Latin name for birch. *Papyrifera* means paper bearing.

FLOWER: Inconspicuous yellow-brown male and greenish female flowers bloom in late May and early June. They develop into catkins and drooping cone-like fruit.

SIZE: Grows 50-70 feet.

BEHAVIOR: It is fast growing.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: It will grow in a broad range of soils but prefers moist, well drained acid soil and performs best in full sun, with at least 6 hours of direct light.

NATURAL RANGE: It is native to cold climates of Canada, Alaska and the northern part of the United States with its range dipping down into the Rockies in Colorado and the Appalachians in North Carolina.

SPECIAL FEATURES: It has attractive white bark and produces nice fall color. It is tolerant of road salt, clay soil, alkaline soil and occasional flooding. It is intolerant of drought and pollution. It may be stressed by very hot summers.

Associated plants are beaked hazelnut, bearberry, dwarf honeysuckle, wintergreen and raspberry.

SUGGESTED CARE: Avoid pruning in the spring as the branches will bleed quantities of sap. It is prime browse for deer. During periods of drought consider using a soaker hose to keep the roots cool and moist.