

Betula nigra

(River birch)

River birch is a species of birch that lacks the white trunk bark associated with other birches. Native to the Eastern United States Betula nigra tree provides interest all year round due to its reddish-brown bark that produces edible sap, harvested in early spring.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Bouleau Noir

Pronunciation: BET-yoo-luh NYE-gruh

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: North America

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Hardiness Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Uses: Screen, Hedge, Specimen, Shade, Street

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Pyramidal, oval, Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 8 to 15 m

Spread at Maturity: 8 to 10 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: More than 50 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Rhomboid

Leaf Margins: Double Serrate

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Color: Brown

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Colored

Fruit

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Brown

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic

Water Requirements: High, Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: Yes

Invasive Potential: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Life Span: More than 50

Diseases: Leaf Spots

Edible Parts: None

Pests: Borers

Plant Propagations: Seed

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image