

paper birch *Betulaceae* *Betula papyrifera* Marsh.  symbol:
BEPA

vTree

Leaf: Alternate, simple, pinnately-veined, ovate in shape, 3 to 5 inches long, with irregularly doubly serrate margins, an acute tip and rounded base (occasionally heart-shaped), green above and paler below.

Flower: Species is monoecious; preformed male catkins near the end of the twig in groups of 2 to 5, 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches long; female are upright, 1 to 1 1/4 inches long, appear or elongate (males) in mid-spring.

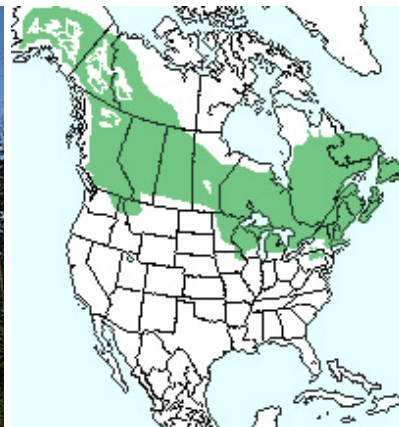
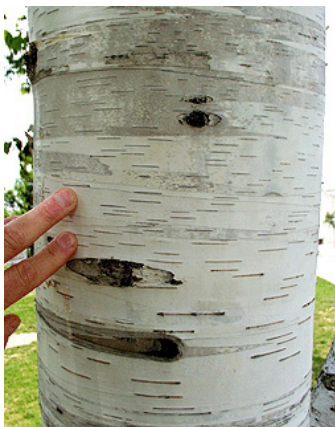
Fruit: Cone like, cylindrical 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, deciduous at maturity, releasing elliptical 2-winged nutlets, mature in the autumn and disperse over the winter.

Twig: Slender, dull red-brown, numerous lighter lenticels, lacking wintergreen smell when cut; terminal bud absent, lateral buds are gummy, green and chestnut brown in color, spur shoots present on older growth.

Bark: Reddish brown with light lenticels on very young stems; later turning chalky to creamy white, peeling in horizontal papery strips; brown to black and may be furrowed at base; orange inner bark.

Form: A medium sized tree to 70 feet with a pyramidal or irregular crown, often with several trunks.

Looks like: [river birch](#) - [European weeping birch](#) - [gray birch](#) - [water birch](#)



Additional Range Information:
Betula papyrifera is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting paper birch.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[Landowner Factsheet](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)
[Horticulture](#)

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