

**Table 1 - Birch Tree Characteristics** This foldout table lists characteristics of birch trees that are of greatest interest in most landscapes. The birch trees listed include native species and some of the more commonly sold exotic species and varieties. Other birch varieties and species are available. Reliable information, especially on susceptibility to insects, is not available for all of the trees listed.

Common Names - <i>Scientific Names</i>	Bark Characteristics	Susceptibility to Insect Pests	General Comments
<b>Paper Birch</b> <b>White Birch</b> <b>Canoe Birch</b> <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	On young trees the bark is brown; it turns white as the tree ages. The bark peels on older trees.	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Moderately susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Native white-barked birch <b>S</b> A good selection in far northern climates (USDA Hardiness Zone 3), although it also does well further south (Ohio, Illinois) <b>S</b> Tolerates alkaline soils well
<b>Gray Birch</b> <i>Betula populifolia</i>	Chalky white non-peeling bark	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Highly susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Native to the northeastern United States
<b>Jacquemonti Birch</b> <b>Whitebarked Himalayan Birch</b> <i>Betula jacquemontii</i>	White bark that peels	<b>S</b> Susceptibility to birch leafminer is unknown <b>S</b> Highly susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> May be difficult to find in nurseries; more common in the eastern United States <b>S</b> Generally not recommended as a landscape tree because of its susceptibility to bronze birch borer
<b>European White Birch</b> <b>Silver Birch</b> <i>Betula pendula</i>	White non-peeling bark that turns black as it ages	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Highly susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Very susceptible to insect problems; therefore, it is not recommended as a landscape tree
<b>Young's Weeping Birch</b> <b>European White Weeping Birch</b> <i>Betula pendula</i> 'Youngii'	White bark that peels	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Highly susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Weeping habitat; no central leader <b>S</b> A variety of European white birch
<b>Whitespire Birch</b> <i>Betula platyphylla japonica</i> , 'Whitespire'	White non-peeling bark	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Moderately susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Considered more heat tolerant than other white-barked birches; therefore, it is often recommended for planting further south than most other white-barked birch trees
<b>Crimson Frost Birch</b> <i>Betula platyphylla</i> var. <i>szechuanica</i> x <i>Betula pendula</i> 'Purpurea' 'Crimson Frost'	White bark with cinnamon tones that peels	<b>S</b> insect susceptibility unknown	<b>S</b> Deep red leaves <b>S</b> Fall foliage varies from crimson to orange-yellow <b>S</b> Prefers moist soil; does well in heavy clay soil <b>S</b> A few other "red-leaf" birches are now available
<b>River Birch</b> <b>Red Birch</b> <i>Betula nigra</i>	Salmon-colored bark that peels and turns to dark red-brown plates as it ages	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer, although attack is generally not severe <b>S</b> Resistant to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Native to the southern United States and along the Mississippi River as far north as St. Paul, MN <b>S</b> Can do well on wet soils although it also grows well on drier soils <b>S</b> Sensitive to alkaline soils with a pH greater than 6.5 <b>S</b> A good selection on southern climates (USDA Hardiness Zone 6) although it also does well in cooler climates (hardiness Zones 4 and 5)
<b>Heritage Birch</b> <b>Heritage River Birch</b> <i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage'	Salmon-colored bark that peels; lighter in color than the native river birch	<b>S</b> Susceptible to birch leafminer, although attack is generally not severe <b>S</b> Resistant to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> A variety of native river birch <b>S</b> Can do well on wet soils although it also grows well on drier soils <b>S</b> Sensitive to alkaline soils with a pH greater than 6.5 <b>S</b> A good selection in souther climates (USDA Hardiness Zone 6) although it also does well in cooler climates (Hardiness Zones 4 and 5)
<b>Yellow Birch</b> <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow-orange bark that peels and turns to reddish-brown as it ages	<b>S</b> Resistant to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Moderately susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Native to the Great Lakes region and the northeastern United States <b>S</b> Can be grown in more shade than the other birches <b>S</b> May be difficult to find available in nurseries <b>S</b> Not widely planted as an ornamental <b>S</b> Requires a cool, moist planting site
<b>Sweet Birch</b> <b>Black Birch</b> <b>Cherry Birch</b> <i>Betula lenta</i>	Brown to almost black; becomes platey as the trees ages	<b>S</b> Resistant to birch leafminer <b>S</b> Moderately susceptible to bronze birch borer	<b>S</b> Native to the northeastern United States <b>S</b> May be difficult to find available in nurseries <b>S</b> Not widely planted as an ornamental