

**Common Name:** Paper Birch  
**Scientific Name:** *Betula papyrifera*

**Sun Exposure:** Full sun

**Average Size:** 50-75 feet at maturity, with a 20-30 foot crown width

**Moisture:** Does best on well-drained, moist sites. Does not tolerate drought. Similar to aspen in water needs.

**Elevation:** Found naturally at low to mid elevations.

**Soils:** Prefers loamy or sandy soils along rivers, lakes or ravines; pH of 5.0-7.5.

**Shape:** Medium to tall tree which is loosely pyramidal when young, developing an irregular oval crown when mature.

**Foliage:** Simple, oval shape with coarsely and doubly-serrate, sharp margins; pointed, rounded at the base; Leaf Surface - Leathery smooth texture above, hairy on the veins below; 2 to 3 inches long and 1 to 2½ inches wide; dark green on top, duller green below; bright yellow fall color.

**Flower:** Flower is a catkin. Greenish when immature, turning brown.

**Fruit:** Heart-shaped, winged nutlets attached to tiny oval seeds.

**Notes:**

- Very susceptible to drought stress
- Used as food by over 30 types of birds and mammals.
- Sometimes called “canoe birch”
- Conspicuous white, peeling bark

