

Himalayan birch

Betula utilis 'Jacquemontii', commonly known as the Himalayan birch or white-barked birch, is a deciduous tree native to the Himalayas, particularly in regions of India, Nepal, and Pakistan. It is highly regarded for its striking appearance, characterized by its smooth, bright white bark that peels off in papery layers, revealing a fresh, creamy-white surface underneath.

The *Betula utilis* 'Jacquemontii' tree typically grows to a height of 12 to 18 meters and has a moderate to fast growth rate. It features an upright, slender trunk and a symmetrical, conical to pyramidal crown. The branches are pendulous and gracefully arching, forming a delicate, lacy appearance.

The most distinctive feature of the Himalayan birch is its beautiful bark. When young, the bark is smooth and light brown but gradually transforms into a dazzling white color as the tree matures. The peeling bark adds visual interest and provides an eye-catching contrast against the dark green foliage.

Betula utilis 'Jacquemontii' thrives in cool, temperate climates and prefers full sun or partial shade. It requires well-drained soil and can tolerate a range of soil types, including sandy, loamy, and clay soils. The tree is relatively low-maintenance and can adapt to urban environments.

Himalayan birch is a popular choice for ornamental planting due to its striking beauty. Its white bark adds a focal point to the landscape, especially during the winter months when other deciduous trees are bare. It can be planted as a specimen tree, in small groups, or along water features, where its reflection enhances the visual impact.