

Silver Birch

Betula pendula, commonly known as the silver birch or European white birch, is a deciduous tree native to Europe and parts of Asia. It is a member of the Betulaceae family and is closely related to other birch species.

One of the most striking features of *Betula pendula* is its bark. When the tree is young, the bark is smooth and brown, but as it matures, it develops characteristic white, papery bark with black horizontal grooves or "lenticels." This white bark provides a stark contrast against the tree's dark green foliage, making it a visually appealing choice for landscapes.

The leaves of *Betula pendula* are small, triangular, and have serrated edges. They are arranged alternately on the branches and are a vibrant green colour during the summer months. In the autumn, the leaves turn a lovely golden-yellow, adding to the tree's ornamental value.

The tree has a moderate growth rate and typically reaches a height of 40 to 60 feet at maturity. It has a slender, upright form when young, but as it ages, it may develop a more rounded crown. The branches of the silver birch tend to droop gracefully, giving it an elegant appearance.

Betula pendula is adaptable to various soil types, although it prefers well-drained soil. It can tolerate acidic or alkaline soils and is relatively drought-tolerant once established. The tree thrives in full sun to partial shade, making it suitable for a range of garden settings.

The silver birch is commonly used as an ornamental tree in gardens and landscapes due to its aesthetic appeal. It can be planted as a specimen tree or in small groups to create a focal point. Additionally, it provides habitat and food for various wildlife, including birds and insects.