

#Birch

Silver birch
Betula pendula L.



Leaf



fruit



bark



inflorescence

Characteristics

Mostly found as a tree up to 30 m high. Birch generally grows on **habitats** with a lot of light and poor soil. As such, birch is also known to be a pioneer species during vegetation succession. However, more in the northern part of its distribution birch can be present in later succession stadiums or even a climax (final stage).

- ❖ The **leaves** are deciduous, triangular or rhomboid, 3.5-7 cm long, 2-4 cm wide, glabrous (no hairs). As young, leaves can be moderately sticky.
- ❖ Birch **flowers** are grouped in hanging catkins.
- ❖ **Fruit** is a small nut, up to 0.2 cm large, surrounded with two wide wings at sides.
- ❖ The **bark** is white and smooth on young trees while afterwards it peels off and remains dark brown.
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Distribution

Throughout Europe, except true Mediterranean in the south and tundra parts in the north.



Don't mistake with

Due to its characteristic bark and hanging branches, it is almost impossible to mix it with another species.