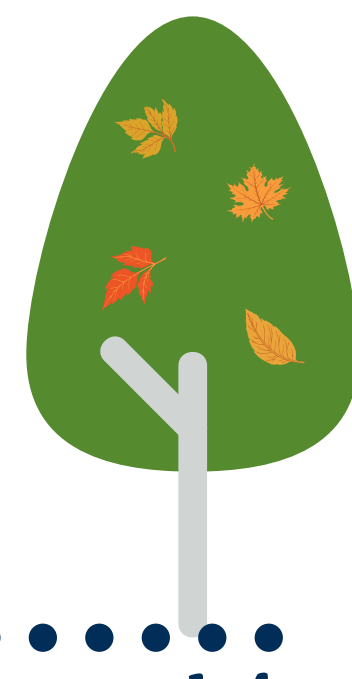


# AgBark



A series of tree insights

*Did you know?*

Alternate common names for the Yellow Birch are Gray birch, silver birch and swamp birch.

## Overview

- Deer consume large numbers of yellow birch seedlings in summer and prefer green leaves and woody stems in fall.
- Yellow birch is a characteristic tree of the northern Appalachians and the hemlock hardwoods forest of the Great Lakes region.
- Yellow birch reproduces primarily by seed, normally first at about 40 years but optimally at about 70 years – trees under 20 years sometimes produce seed.

## Tree Details

15-20 m  
Tall

Mature bark  
is smooth and  
shiny.

The  
common name  
pertains to the  
yellow color of  
the bark and fall  
leaves.

# Yellow Birch

**Kingdom:** *Plantae*

**Class:** *Magnoliophyta*

**Order:** *Fagales*

**Family:** *Betulaceae*

**Genus:** *Betula L.*

## Birch in Agriculture

- The sap of yellow birch can be tapped for use as edible syrup. Tea is sometimes made from the twigs and/or inner bark.
- Yellow birch sees limited use in landscape plantings, partly because it may be relatively hard to locate at local nurseries.
- It is used for furniture, cabinetry, charcoal, pulp, interior finish, veneer, tool handles, boxes, woodenware and interior doors.
- Yellow birch is one of the principal hardwoods used in the distillation of wood alcohol, acetate of lime, charcoal, tar and oils.

## History

- Historically, Native Americans have used the yellow birch for therapeutic purposes.
- The indigenous Ojibwe also make a compound from the inner bark and consume it as a diuretic, use whole pieces of bark in the treatment of blood diseases, and mix its sap with maple sap for a pleasant beverage drink.

Source:  
<https://www.forestryimages.org/browse/subject/2766?tab=subject-info>  
[https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_beal2.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/plantguide/pdf/pg_beal2.pdf)  
<https://naturewalk.yale.edu/trees/betulaceae/betula-alleganiensis/yellow-birch-93>

FARM CREDIT  
**KNOWLEDGE CENTER**