

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://naturewalk.yale.edu/trees/betulaceae/betula-alleganiensis/yellow-birch-93>

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