

1219 – 10 River Birch



Dear Member,

Thank you for your contribution to the Arbor Day Foundation and sharing our mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

Your free trees are my way of saying thanks. They have arrived in a bundle. Complete planting and transplanting instructions are in the enclosed *Tree Planting Guide*. You may contact Member Services if you have any questions about your trees. More complete information about each tree can be found in *The Tree Book* or in the online Tree Guide at **arborday.org**.

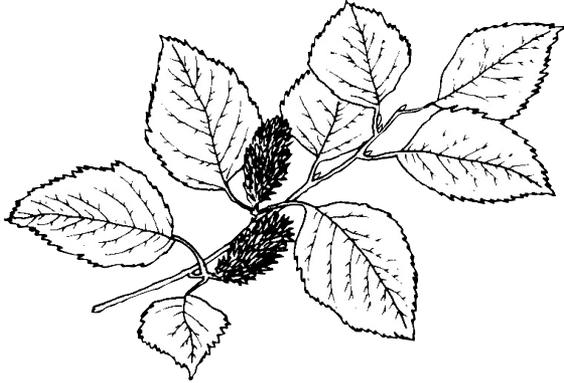
Because we want your tree-planting experience to be successful, your trees are guaranteed to arrive healthy and to grow, or they will be replaced within one year of shipment. If you need further assistance, please contact Member Services at **info@arborday.org** or 888-448-7337.

Best regards,



Cynthia A. Allgood  
Director of Procurement

## Leaf Identification



River Birch  
(*Betula nigra*)

**River birch** is a large tree at maturity reaching 40'-70' in height with a 40'-60' spread. A short trunk usually divides into several arching branches that form a rounded crown. This birch can be grown as a single- or multi-stemmed tree. It has cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark and lustrous medium green leaves in summer, turning a soft yellow in the fall. A wide variety of birds and small mammals eat the seeds, and deer browse the foliage. Birch is a host plant for butterfly larvae. It provides nesting sites and cover.

River birch will tolerate a wide variety of site conditions, including sandy to clay, moist to wet, acidic soils, full sun to partial shade, heat, and periodic flooding. It prefers sandy, moist, acidic soil and full sun. Pruning can ensure a single-stem tree and establish a stronger structure to resist ice damage. Any pruning should be done during dormancy and not when the sap is flowing. This native birch grows at a medium to fast rate with a lifespan up to 75 years.