

Botanical Name: Betula pendula

Common Name: European white birch

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, single or multi-trunked tree, with the primary branches ascending and smaller side branches weeping-drooping to form a loose oval canopy; the bark is gray-white, smooth, with large transverse lenticles

Height 20-40' (60') Spread 1/3-1/2 Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full or partial sun

Soil moist, acidic, well-draining soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-11, 14-24); avoid dry desert heat

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, ovate-rhombic; unequally serrate, 1"-2 1/2" long, dark glossy green; acuminate apex; petioles 1/2-1" long

Flowers staminate flowers borne in catkins (late summer-fall) mostly at the ends of the branches; female catkins on lateral spur branches

Fruit winged nutlets (falling from the cone when mature)

Propagation: seed

Usage: a very popular accent tree for its unusual form and fall color (in colder areas); planted in groves; lawn tree; suitable for temperate climate, woodsy landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering regular watering; not a good drought-tolerant plant

Fertilizing balanced fertilizer in spring, plus iron

Pruning stake when young and select leader branches; prune seldom

Pests/Diseases aphids, sooty mold, spider mite

Special Conditions

Origin: No. Europe Family: Betulaceae