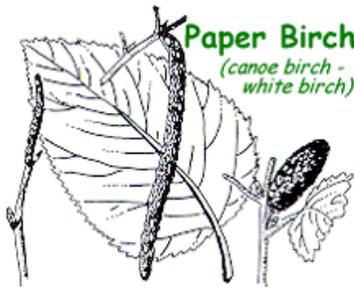


Shade Tree (over 30')  
Deciduous  
Native  
Map #8

# *Paper Birch*

(*Betula papyrifera*)  
Family: *Betulaceae*



**Leaves:** simple, rounded narrowing to the tip, base broadly wedge shaped to rounded; fall - yellow.

**Buds:** alternate, shingled, brown-black with some green at the base, downy on the margins of the scales.

**Stems:** slightly warty with glands, slightly hairy at first, becoming smooth and shiny reddish brown.

**Bark:** white, bark peeling in thin layers. Horizontal lenticles create black lines. Triangles of black markings at branch attachments.

**Flowers:** separate male and female flowers on one tree; male flowers in slender, pendulous catkins that are formed in fall; females in catkins at the end of twigs, they are formed in spring.

**Fruits:** tiny, winged nutlets in cone-like structures (strobiles).

**Habit:** young – loose pyramidal; old – rounded; often multistemmed.

**Culture:** Requires a cool moist root zone. Becomes susceptible to the bronze birch borer in hot, dry conditions, although the cultivar 'Renaissance Reflections' is resistant to this insect. Full sun to partial shade. Becomes chlorotic in alkaline soils. Birch leaf miner stresses trees making them more susceptible to bronze birch borer.

**Miscellaneous:** The classic white-barked birch. Snow-white bark and yellow fall color make it delightful as a specimen or in groupings. However, it will languish if not provided with the proper cultural conditions. Also known as Canoe birch or White birch.

**Cultivars:** 'Renaissance Reflections' : A selection of paper birch that is resistant to the bronze birch borer. The best borer-resistant white-barked birch. Is relatively tolerant of hot, dry sites but prefers a cool, moist root zone. Full sun to partial shade.



Fall color



Winter beauty



‘Renaissance Reflections’  
(bronze birch borer resistant)

**Credits: Photos from:** [www.midwestlandscapeplants.org](http://www.midwestlandscapeplants.org) and various other .edu websites unless noted. **Text from:** “Manual of Woody Landscape Plants” by Michael Dirr; “Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)” from the University of Illinois Extension; [www.midwestlandscapeplants.org](http://www.midwestlandscapeplants.org); and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.