Betula costata

Height 12 – 25 (30) m
Crown broad ovoid to round, half-open crown
Bark and branches light grey-brown to greyish yellow, flaking
Leaf ovoid to narrow ovoid, green, 5 - 10 cm
Flowers catkins, ± single and erect, ± 4 - 6 cm, April
Fruits ovoid fruiting catkins, 2 - 3 cm
Spines/thorns None
Toxicity usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type few soil requirements, not drought-tolerant
Paving tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone 5a (-28.8 to -26.1 °C)
Wind resistance moderate
Other resistances resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Fauna tree resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), valuable for butterflies
Shape clearstem tree, multi-stem treem
Origin Eastern and central China, Korea, Manchuria

Large tree with a broad ovoid to rounded, semi-open crown. Needs a lot of space due to its broad, fairly low branching pattern. Has attractively flaking branches and bark. Not to be confused with types of B. ermanii, especially 'Blush', which is still being grown as B. costata. One difference is that the bark of B. costata already starts to peel in the second or third year, while that of B. ermanii only starts when mature. Another is that the first-year twigs of B. costata are rough and those of B. ermanii are smooth. Finally, the leaves of B. costata are more than twice as long as they are wide, and have a straight leaf base. The leaves of B. ermanii are shorter and have a somewhat heart-shaped leaf base. Has poor tolerance for drought and is sensitive to (sea) wind.