



Betula utilis 'Grayswood Ghost'



Height	12 – 15 m
Width	6-10m
Crown	wide oval
Bark and branches	branches brown, bark white, flaking
Leaf	ovoid to oval, 8-12 cm, dark green
Autumn colour	yellow
Flowers	catkins, yellow-green, ? ± 2 cm, ? 10-12 cm, March-April
Fruits	fruit catkins, 2,5-3,5 cm
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	clayed soil, loamy soil, sandy soil, peaty soil, nutrient-poor soil, acid soil, all soil types
Paving	tolerates partial paving
Winter hardiness zone	6 (-23,3 to -17,8 °C)
Wind resistance	good
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind
Fauna tree	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, valuable for butterflies
Application	avenues and broad streets
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem tree
Origin	grayswood Hill, Haslemere, England, 1985

'Grayswood Ghost' is a medium to large type of tree often compared to the popular 'Thornwood', seen as its English equivalent. This tree develops a broad oval crown that can grow up to 15 metres tall and about 9 metres in diameter. As with the 'Thornwood', the crown of the 'Grayswood Ghost' has a very regular shape, making it particularly suitable as an avenue tree for wide streets and lanes. The bark is initially dark brown, but changes to an almost white colour after a few years, flaking only slightly. The leaves are a glossy dark green, providing a nice contrast to the white bark. In autumn, the leaves turn to yellow before falling. This tree grows well in semi-open paving, making it suitable for wide streets and avenues as well. It roots shallowly with many fine root hairs in the topsoil.

The original 'Grayswood Ghost' was located at Grayswood Hill, England, and propagation material was collected just before the tree died. In 1985, this material was named 'Grayswood Ghost' and distributed.