



Betula nigra



Height	10 - 15 m, fast growing
Width	6-10m
Crown	round, half-open crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches	red brown and a strongly scaling bark, later brown black
Leaf	diamond to ovoid, shiny deep green, 3 - 10 cm
Autumn colour	yellow
Flowers	yellow green catkins, 1 - 1.5 cm, 6 - 8 cm, mid-April
Fruits	yellow brown fruiting catkins, circa 2.5 cm
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	not too dry, no clay with a high pH
Soil moisture	suitable for wet soil, withstand short flood
Paving	tolerates partial paving
Winter hardiness zone	4 (-34,4 to -28,9 °C)
Wind resistance	very 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, tree containers, roof gardens
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem treem
Origin	eastern and south-eastern part of the USA

Average-sized, graceful tree with pendulous branches. The natural habit is loose and usually multiple-stemmed, in cultivation however, often grown on one stem. Seldom forms an upright trunk, but usually grows into a capricious and irregular tree with irregular, spreading, pendulous branches. At a young age the trunk is yellow brown, but later turns to brown red to nearly completely black. The bark flakes strongly and curves. Young twigs are red brown with dark lenticels. The leaf is shiny, deep green and colours into yellow in autumn. The leaf margin is strikingly double-toothed. The inflorescence is early, extremely generous and due to the long male catkins very striking. Originally it grows in moist soil, but it also grows in drier locations. The tree is shallow rooting with a delicately branching root system and many fibrous rootlets. Most birches are familiar because of their white bark. The Betula nigra's bark flakes off quite soon and turns via reddish-brown to very dark brownish-black.