

TREES *of* BC

Paper birch

(*Betula papyrifera*)



Bark

Thin, white to reddish-brown, with dark horizontal slits called lenticels. It peels in papery strips, exposing reddish-orange inner bark which will gradually turn black with age.

Leaves

Triangle- or egg-shaped, about 8 centimetres long, and doubly toothed; dull green on top, paler with a soft down underneath.

Flowers and Fruit

The flowers are either male or female and are in narrow catkins. Female catkins are 2 to 4 centimetres long, standing erect at the tip of the branch. Male catkins are longer and hang below the branch. The flowers appear before or at the same time as the leaves. The nutlets have wings broader than the seed. Each tree produces thousands of seeds.

Habitat

Paper birch grows on a variety of soils, and is abundant on rolling upland terrain and floodplain sites, but it also grows on open slopes, avalanche tracks, swamp margins and in bogs. It doesn't grow well in shade, and consequently it often occurs in younger forests following a disturbance.

30 m



PROVINCIAL RANGE

Water birch

(*Betula occidentalis*)



Bark

Thin, shiny, dark reddish-brown to black, with marked horizontal slits called lenticels. The bark does not peel like other birches.

Leaves

Oval-shaped, broadest below the middle, slightly tapered towards a blunt or sharp tip; 2 to 5 centimetres long. The edges are thin, doubly-toothed. The leaf surfaces are shiny, yellowish-green above and paler, dotted with fine glands underneath.

Flowers and Fruit

Tiny, hairy nutlets with wings broader than the seed. Thousands of seeds are produced from each tree.

Habitat

Water birch occurs on the wet to moist, nutrient-rich soils of streambanks, forests and marshes. It is important in wetland ecosystems and those near water, where it provides important habitat for many birds and other animals.

10 m



PROVINCIAL RANGE

Black hawthorn

(*Crataegus douglasii*)



Bark

Young bark and twigs are deep tan to dark mahogany. Older bark is gray to dark gray and scaled.

Leaves

Oval leaves are 3 to 6 centimetres long, with 5 to 9 small lobes at the top.

Flowers and Fruit

White, saucer-shaped flowers in flat-topped clusters. Clusters of small, blackish "apples" called haws that wither quickly when ripe.

Habitat

Black hawthorns like lots of sunlight to grow to tree size. The apple-like fruit provides food for birds in the winter. Impenetrable hawthorn thickets are good nesting and denning or resting and sleeping sites for small birds and mammals.

8 m



PROVINCIAL RANGE