

Betula populifolia

Gray Birch

Native to Maine

Upland
Clearings, Roadsides

Leaves



Flickr.com user ZeNeeceC



Look for leaves that are thin, glossy, and dark green. The leaves are simple, alternate, triangular, and come to a narrow point. The edges are toothed. Leaves flutter in the wind.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



Flickr.com users 1sock and pallaea



Look for a deciduous tree that grows up to 10 m tall with leafy branches that start almost at the ground.

Stem



Flickr.com user tgpotterfield



Look for gray bark that does not peel. The inner bark of this tree is orange. There are black, triangular patches where the branches meet the trunk.

Seasonal Change



Flickr.com user ZeNeeceC



The fruit is a slender cone that is 2 cm long and 1 cm thick. In late fall and winter the seeds, which are described as winged nutlets, fall from the cones.

Similar Species

The fact that the gray birch's bark does not peel in layers distinguishes the gray birch from other birches. Often these trees grow in clusters that come from the same root.

Did You Know?

Birch trees are used to make canoes and basketball courts. People in Finland use birch leaves to make tea, and people in England use birch sap to make alcoholic beverages.