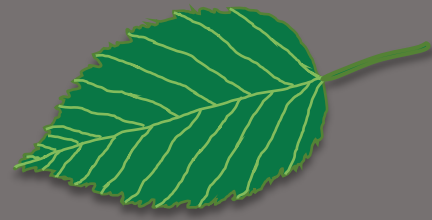


# Yellow Birch

*Betula alleghaniensis*



Yellow birch (also known as golden birch) is recognizable for bronze, papery bark that naturally peels off the trunk of young trees in fine curls. This tree is native to Aitkin County. Yellow birch has 3"-5" serrated, oval-shaped leaves, and bears 1" catkins with seeds in the fall. Ruffed grouse, squirrels, chipmunks, and songbirds will utilize this tree. The wood of yellow birch is hard, close-grained, and light brown; used for flooring, veneer, furniture, and firewood. Oil of wintergreen may be derived from yellow birch bark. Tea can be made from the bark and yellow birch can be tapped for syrup.

**Height:** 60' to 75'

Yellow birch grows slowly, less than 1 foot per year. Yellow birch is a long-lived tree that commonly lives to be 150 years old, but can be as old as 300 years old.

## Planting environment:

*Soil composition:* Prefers loam, will grow in richer soils such as peat

*Soil moisture:* Well-drained, moist but not wet

*Sunlight:* Intermediate (4-6 hours of sun per day)

Yellow birch produces a number of seedlings that do best when there is no other vegetation. Clearing vegetation and tilling soil before planting will help provide a suitable environment for yellow birch growth. Be sure to protect the seedlings from girdling by rodents and deer browsing. Trees can be protected by fencing and tree guards.

## Maintenance:

Although yellow birch seedlings may become established under shaded conditions, to thrive, seedlings require sufficient light; consider harvesting a portion of canopy trees shading seedlings. Control surrounding vegetation and weeds so that seedlings are not outcompeted. Protect seedlings from deer and rabbit browse.

## Top diseases/pests:

1. Stem cankers
2. Forest tent caterpillar

