

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Paper Birch

(Betula papyrifera)

Get to know your tree:

The paper birch is a Michigan native species with small, coarsely-toothed triangular or slightly oval leaves. Fall leaf color is typically yellow. Flowers are greenish-yellow and occur in long catkins dangling from twig tips. Fruits are stout catkins hanging from twigs. Catkins frequently persist into winter. Bark is reddish brown with lenticels when young, becoming white and peeling with age.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter paper birch provides approximately \$42.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 34 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger paper birches, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

Paper birch wood is used in many products, including popsicle sticks, toothpicks, clothespins, brooms, furniture, wooden toys, and paper.

The paper birch is a pioneer species, meaning it quickly re-colonizes areas that have been deforested due to a disturbance. The species is also well-adapted to fires.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Paper birches grow to heights of 50-70 feet, with a spread of around 35 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels! This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is somewhat sensitive to drought, so may require frequent watering. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees