



### ***Betula nigra* 'Summer Cascade'**

#### **River Birch**

#### **Betulaceae (Birch)**

<b>Type</b>	Accent tree, woody plant
<b>Hardy Range</b>	3B to 9A
<b>Height</b>	6' to 8' / 1.80m to 2.40m
<b>Spread</b>	6' to 8' / 1.80m to 2.40m
<b>Growth Rate</b>	Fast
<b>Form</b>	Weeping
<b>Exposure</b>	Partial shade or partial sun to full sun
<b>Persistence</b>	Deciduous
<b>Bloom Color</b>	Brown
<b>Bloom Time</b>	Spring and Winter

#### **Native Habitat**

Primarily alluvial soils in lower elevations along streams in the eastern US to north Florida.

#### **Crown, Branch and Twig**

This plant is symmetrical with a medium texture and has a dense crown.  
This plant's bark is very showy.  
Branches or twigs are thin.

This plant can be trained to a single trunk.  
Little pruning is required.

#### **Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents**

**Pests:** Almost unique among the birches in that it is resistant to bronze birch borer (not immune) and leafminers. This species has been shown to be resistant to borers, but not Japanese beetles, in tests at the University of Kentucky. Lacebugs can cause leaf stippling, bronzing and defoliation. Resistant to Japanese beetles. Mistletoe can infest river birch – prune out infestation several feet below mistletoe. Application of too much nitrogen has been reported to increase susceptibility to insect damage. Asian long-horned beetle, a new pest in certain regions of the country since 1996, attacks and kills trees. Tunneling by beetle larvae birdles tree stems and branches. Potentially resistant trees include *Matasequoia* (Dawn Redwood), *Taxodium* (Baldcypress), *Corylus colurna* (Turkish Hazelnut), *Quercus* (Oak), *Gledisia* (Honeylocust), *Tilia* (Linden), *Ginkgo*, and *Gymnocladus dioica* (Kentucky Coffee Tree).

**Diseases:** Leaf spots; chlorosis on soils with a high pH.

## **Betula nigra 'Summer Cascade'**

<b>Leaf Color</b>	Green
<b>Fall color</b>	Yellow

#### **Leaf Identification**

Type:	Simple
Arrangement:	Alternate
Venations:	Pinnate
Margins:	Double serrate
Shapes:	Ovate and rhomboid
Length:	2in./5cm to 4in./10cm

<b>Fruit Color</b>	Brown
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The fruit is dry and elongated.

#### **Environment**

This plant tolerates some drought, flooding and a little salt.  
This plant will grow in dry to wet or submerged soil.  
Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.  
The pH preference is an acidic to slightly alkaline (less than 6.8 to 7.7) soil.

#### **Landscape Uses**

- Water features
- Specimen
- Accent

#### **Attributes and Features**

- Pest tolerant
- Attracts birds
- Attracts butterflies
- Inconspicuous blooms
- Inconspicuous fruit
- Fruit is edible by birds
- Ozone tolerant



The "Little-leaf" syndrome is not well understood – cause is unknown for sure. This problem is bad enough in container nurseries to prevent container production in the deep south (southern Georgia and Florida); field production does not appear to be a problem in the deep south.

This genus is sensitive to sulfur dioxide air pollution. Sources of sulfur dioxide air pollution include fossil fuel combustion, smelting and refining of ores. Damage usually is confirmed to urban areas near power stations. Acute injury typically occurs when plants are exposed to high concentrations for a short period. In deciduous plants, tissue between veins on the upper and lower side of the leaf turns yellow, white or tan-brown. The veins usually remain green. In conifers, the tips of needles turn reddish-brown. As damage accrues, the discoloration progresses toward the base of the needle. Deciduous plants exposed to low concentrations of sulfur dioxide for long periods of time (chronic exposure) show a general chlorosis or yellowing of the foliage. Needles on conifers exposed to chronic sulfur dioxide turn yellow and drop from the tree prematurely. If you suspect sulfur dioxide has injured this plant, look in the neighborhood for blackberry, raspberry, pumpkin, or squash plants. These serve as indicator plants for sulfur dioxide air pollution damage because they are very sensitive to it. Other sensitive plants include apple, birch, white pine, poplar, blue spruce and zinnia. Plants that resist injury include box-elder, dogwood, black gum, juniper, maple, spruce, and sycamore.