

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Betula alleghaniensis

Yellow Birch



Yellow birch prefers moist, cool soils in southern Michigan, it's often found in swampy areas. It does not do well in hot, dry sites. Fall color is a beautiful, clear yellow. Bark is interesting: hanging in papery shreds on young trees, forming large, jagged plates on older trees. Broken twigs smell and taste of wintergreen.

Suggested companions: tamarack (*Larix laricina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), ferns.

Photo Credit: © USDA, NRCS, 1997 - Northeastern Wetlands Flora. The PLANTS database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

Plant Type: Tree

Size: 50'-75' H
35-50' W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Forested Upland
Forested Wetland

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Rich Moist
Sandy/ Gravelly
Clay
Very Damp/Wet

Exposure: sun
filtered
shade

Flower Color:

Green
Yellow
Purple

Plant in: Spring

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:

April
May

Other Attributes:

Butterfly attracting
Bird attracting
Wildlife attracting
Fall color