

BETULA PAPYRIFERA

“SAINT GEORGE”



Fam. Betulaceae

DESCRIPTION

Fast-growing ornamental tree with a conical-shaped crown.

LEAVES

Ovate, dark-green leaves, from 5 to 10 cm long; in autumn they turn yellow or orange-red.

FRUITS

They ripen in autumn; the ripe fruit is composed of numerous tiny winged seeds enclosed in the catkins bracts.

DISTRIBUTION

The plant is native to North America, Canada and Alaska.

BARK

White bark that flakes off in thin and waterproof layers, revealing an underlying orange colour.

FLOWERS

Wind-pollinated catkins; it blooms from mid-April to June depending on location. Paper birch is monoecious, which means it has both male (5–10 cm long, brownish) and female (3.8 cm long greenish) flowers growing from the tips of the twigs.

ROOTS

Generally shallow (not deeper than 60 cm), they do not form taproots.

INTERESTING FACTS

Ornamental plants used in parks and gardens as an isolated tree or, more often, in groups.

