


**yellow birch** [Betulaceae](#) [Betula](#) *alleghaniensis* Britton  symbol: **vTree**  
BEAL2

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, ovate, 4 to 6 inches long, pinnately-veined, acute tip, rounded base, doubly serrate margins, somewhat soft or fuzzy, dark green above and paler below.

**Flower:** Species is monoecious; males are preformed catkins occurring near ends of twig, 1 inch long, reddish green; females are upright 5/8 inches long, reddish green; appear or elongate (males) in the spring.

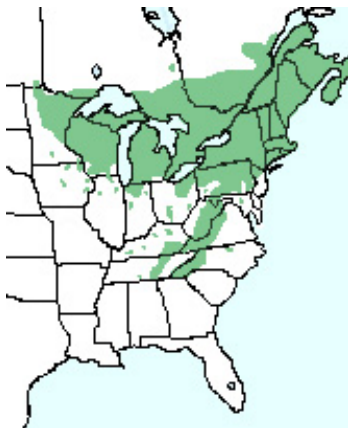
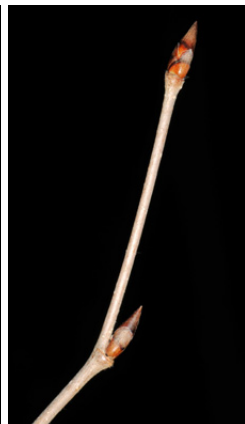
**Fruit:** Cone like, 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches long, rather plump, upright, with many hairy scales containing 2-winged nutlets, matures in fall and disperse over winter.

**Twig:** Slender, green-brown and hairy when young, light-brown and smooth later; spur shoots present on older trees; buds are ovoid, sharply pointed, reddish brown with ciliate scale margins. Twigs have a wintergreen smell when broken.

**Bark:** On younger stems shiny bronze (sometimes gray), peeling horizontally in thin, curly, papery strips; older trees develop red-brown scaly plates.

**Form:** A medium size tree to 75 feet with an irregular crown.

**Looks like:** [sweet birch](#) - [roundleaf birch](#) - [paper birch](#) - [hophornbeam](#)



**Additional Range Information:**  
*Betula alleghaniensis* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting yellow birch.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[Landowner Factsheet](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)

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