

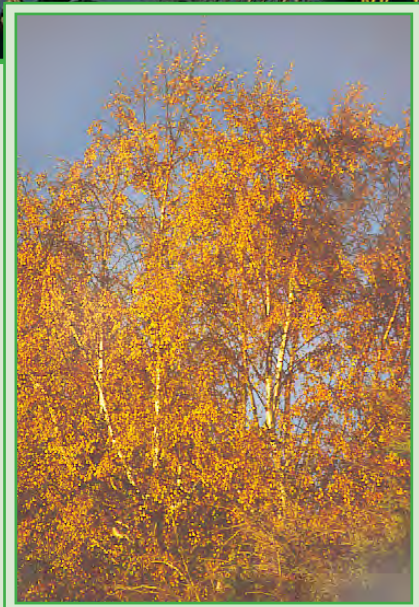
THE BIRCH

BETULA.

The birch is a most graceful and attractive tree in all seasons. Its myriad of leaves flutter in the lightest breeze and change colours from green to gold in the autumn. The predominant feature of the birch is the colourful exfoliating bark on the trunk and branches which is especially noticeable during winter.



BETULA PENDULA



BETULA PLATYPHYLLA

CULTIVATION

A native to the northern hemisphere it has a slender and upright growing habit, with fine outer branches. A hardy pioneer specie which needs plenty of light and adapts to most soils, but prefers a cool, well drained moist soil. Best autumn colours occur in cooler regions of New Zealand. It grows slowly in dry shallow soils, and is intolerant of drought conditions due to its shallow fine root system. Birch's are very hardy and easy to grow. They require pruning only to remove occasional double leaders and broken branches. The birch breaks into growth early in Spring. If pruned at this time the sap can run profusely from the wound which may be harmful to the tree. A suitable problem free tree for small gardens and as a street tree, fast initial growth rate and modest final height.