

Botanical Name: *Betula pendula* (BTp)

Common Name: Silver birch

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Pyramidal to elliptical form with pendulous branchlets
- Smooth white to grey bark, often with dark horizontal striations
- Glossy green serrated leaves turning yellow in autumn
- Insignificant flowers in spring
- Fruit are [catkins](#)

Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 6 to 8 metres

Species origin

Central Europe to Asia

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 30\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use in parks and large gardens, commercial shopping precincts and home gardens
- Useful as a specimen tree or in group plantings in close formation
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

Use considerations

- Can perform well in Canberra where sufficient moisture is available
- Dry sites can lead to extensive crown terminal branchlet death and burnt leaves
- High frost tolerance, but low drought tolerance
- Needs richer, deeper soils with reliable soil moisture
- Requires full sun
- [Medium longevity](#) but can be longer depending on available moisture
- Moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Leaves can be affected by a rust fungus, however this is not a significant problem in Canberra
- Requires careful pruning when mature, as does not readily reshoot
- Vigorous root growth
- Produces pollen and is wind pollinated

Examples in Canberra

Mitchell Street, Griffith; National Arboretum Canberra

Availability

Commercially available

