

## Red/River Birch

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|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>Genus/species</b> | <i>Betula nigra</i>    |  |
| <b>Family</b>        | Betulaceae             |  |
| <b>Distribution</b>  | <b>Southeastern US</b> | <p>E Texas northward to Missouri<br/>         Missouri eastward to Maryland<br/>         Maryland southward to N Florida<br/>         N Florida westward to E Texas<br/>         Northward along Upper Mississippi Valley to SE Minnesota<br/>         Northward along Atlantic Coast to SE New York and S New Hampshire<br/>         Mostly absent from Appalachian Mountain systems and Lower Mississippi Valley</p> |

**Comments** This is the only birch native to lowland areas of the southeastern US, and it is typically found in wet areas such as floodplains of rivers and streams. It is a medium-sized tree often cultivated as an ornamental because of its shaggy, brownish papery bark that peels in layers. The male catkins, which soon release their wind-blown pollen, can be seen hanging in the early spring just as the leaves are beginning to develop while the female “cones” develop later, then disintegrate to release their seeds.

