Splish Splash River Birch

Betula nigra 'Splish Splash'



Splish Splash River Birch foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 45 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Red Birch

Description:

An excellent cultivar of the native river birch selected for its amazing peeling bark in colors of silvery-white brown and tan, also has reliable fall color; needs acidic soil, susceptible to chlorosis in alkaline soils

Ornamental Features

Splish Splash River Birch features subtle green catkins with brown overtones in early spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding yellow in the fall. The peeling silver bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.



Splish Splash River Birch
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Splish Splash River Birch is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Splish Splash River Birch is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

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Planting & Growing

Splish Splash River Birch will grow to be about 60 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 45 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.