

River Birch
Betula nigra



Description: a medium sized tree to 75 feet tall and up to 2 + feet in diameter with broad, irregular, Twiggly crown. It's Shaggy, peeling, reddish brown bark is distinctive from any other Indiana tree. Leaves alternate, simple, square, and double tooth. Often has multiple Trunks and clumps

Leaves: Alternate on twig, simple, formed singly on short less than half an inch, slender woolly stems. Blades oval to rhombic square, 2/3 in Long, edges coarsely double tooth: dark green and shiny above, Taylor and densely Harry below rough-textured. Turn yellow brown in autumn

Bark: tan and papery and pinkish tan to reddish brown curls on young trees and branches, thicker, nearly black when mature. Very distinctive, even at a distance

Flowers: unisexual, male and female on same tree, open April through May. Male flowers on long 1 and 1/2 through 3 in drooping clusters; female in short less than half an inch, woolly clusters

Fruits: cone like cylindrical fruits to 1 inch long and 1/2 in thick, each containing many tiny three lobed, Harry, wing nut like seeds. Seeds wind scattered in spring

Habitat/Range: along rivers, streams, and in wet woods; primarily in Southwestern third and Northwestern corner of State occasional and Southeastern Indiana. Largely absent elsewhere unless planted