



BETULACEAE  
*Betula occidentalis* Hook.  
Beoc

water birch

**FORM:** Small tree or loosely branched shrub, up to 15m (13-26ft) tall; frequently found in crowded, dense thickets.

**IDAHO CHAMPION:** var. *occidentalis*, 1973. 29in dbh; 91.1in circum. + 50ft tall + 7ft crown= 148pts; Sawtooth NF.

**BARK:** Smooth, shiny, reddish-brown, marked by pale horizontal lenticels; bark does not exfoliate.

**BUDS:** Brown, resinous, pointed, about 6mm long.

**LEAVES:** Alternate, deciduous, broadly ovate to diamond-shaped, 3-5cm (1-2in), serrate to dentate, green above, pale yellow-green and minutely glandular below, initially sticky; changes to dull yellow in autumn.

**FLOWERS:** Cylindrical catkin 2cm long, flowering with or before leaves in the spring; Feb.-June; breaking up at maturity.

**FRUIT:** A winged samara tipped with persistent styles (1).

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** *Betula papyrifera*, p.13.

**HABITAT:** Along streams or on open hillsides.

**NOTES:** Most common birch in Idaho. *B. occidentalis* and *B. papyrifera* freely hybridize in northern Idaho.

Syal h.t.		Pipio
Phma h.t.		
Caru	Caru	Psme
Aruv	h.t.	
Phma	Phma	
+ Smst	h.t.	
1 Phma	Phma	Abgr
Cooc	h.t.	
Libo	Libo	
Xete	h.t.	
+ Asca	Asca	
Tabr	h.t.	
Mefe		
Setr	h.t.	
Phma		
Clun	Clun	
Tabr	h.t.	
Mefe		
Xete		
Vagl	Xete	
Cooc	h.t.	
Clun		Thp)
Tabr	Clun	
Mefe	h.t.	
Xete		
Asca	Asca	
Tabr	h.t.	
Mefe		
Gydr	h.t.	
Adpe	h.t.	
Adpe	Atfi	
Atfi	h.t.	
Opho	h.t.	
Clun		Tshe
Arnu	Clun	
Mefe	h.t.	
Xete		
Asca		
1 Arnu	Asca	
Mefe	h.t.	
Gydr	h.t.	
Mefe	Clun	Tsmc
Xete	h.t.	
Xete	Mefe	
Luhi	h.t.	
Mefe	Stam	
Luhi	h.t.	
Vagl	Xete	
Luhi	h.t.	
Clun		Ab1a
Mefe	Clun	
Xete	h.t.	
Cooc		
Xete	Mefe	
Vasc	h.t.	
Luhi		
Mefe	Stam	
Lica	h.t.	
Caca	Caca	
Vaca	h.t.	
Legl		
Cooc		
Vagl	Xete	
Vasc	h.t.	
Luhi		
Vasc	h.t.	Pico
Xete	c.t.	
Vaca	c.t.	