



RIVER BIRCH

Betula nigra

Located along streams and rivers, on flood plains and bottomlands and in bogs from southeastern Connecticut and eastern New York south to the Gulf of Mexico. Also known as Red or Water Birch.

This relative of the alders is a medium sized tree, occasionally reaching 25 m high. The greenish to reddish-brown bark peels off in thin layers; smaller twigs are reddish. Mature

leaves are dark green above and whitish below; irregularly toothed; firm; the base appears to be abruptly cut off. The male catkins and female cones resemble those of *A. serrulata* (p. 32.03); male catkins in clusters of 2 or 3; individual cones arising from a short stem at the junction of the leaf and the twig.

