

Betula pendula

COMMON NAME

Silver birch

FAMILY

Betulaceae

AUTHORITY

Betula pendula Roth

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

BETPEN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree with semi-drooping habit to about 25 m. Bark smooth at first, silvery white and peppery, becoming dark grey and rough. Deltoid leaves to about 6 cm long with 5-7 pairs of veins and serrate margins. Male catkins up to 9 cm long; female catkins to about 2.5 cm, papery when ripe and separate into large numbers of winged seeds, wind-carried.

SIMILAR TAXA

There are several other *Betula* species in cultivation, *B. pendula* can be separated from most of them by the rhomboid leaves and the drooping growth habit.

FLOWERING

September, October, November

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

YEAR NATURALISED

1880

ORIGIN

W. Asia, Asia Minor, Morocco

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Reproduction

Suckering in wetlands, seed.

Dispersal

People, seed.



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/betula-pendula/>