

BETULA PENDULA ROTH (BIRCH TREE)



HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Light-demanding, can grow rapidly also on poor soils, and its roots are easily associated with a large number of ectomycorrhizal fungi. *Betula pendula* grows best on fairly fertile, light, well-drained soils, particularly when soil conditions are acidic, while *Betula pubescens* tolerates damper soils and poorly drained heaths.

IMPORTANCE AND USAGE

Birch provides the commercially most important source of hardwood in northern Europe, and is often an important component in conifer plantations.

DISTRIBUTION

Betula sp. occurs naturally throughout Europe up to central Siberia. *Betula pubescens* has a more northerly and easterly distribution, growing further north in Europe than any other tree species, whereas *Betula pendula* can reach southern regions such as Iberian Peninsula, South Italy and Greece.

