

Paper birch

(*Betula papyrifera*)



Dormant bud

Bud start brown but becomes green and expands before it breaks open and you see the leaf tips. *You do not record this phase.*

Breaking leaf bud



One or more breaking leaf buds are visible (the green leaf tip is visible). This is before the first leaf has unfolded to expose the leaf base. *Note the key is seeing the bud open.*

Leaves - One or more live, unfolded leaves (the entire length has emerged from a bud, so that the leaf stalk or leaf base is visible). Do not include fully dried or dead leaves. *Select even when increasing leaf size & colored leaves.*



Increasing leaf size

Leaves have not yet reached full size (2-4" long). *Do not include new leaves that continue to emerge throughout the growing season.*



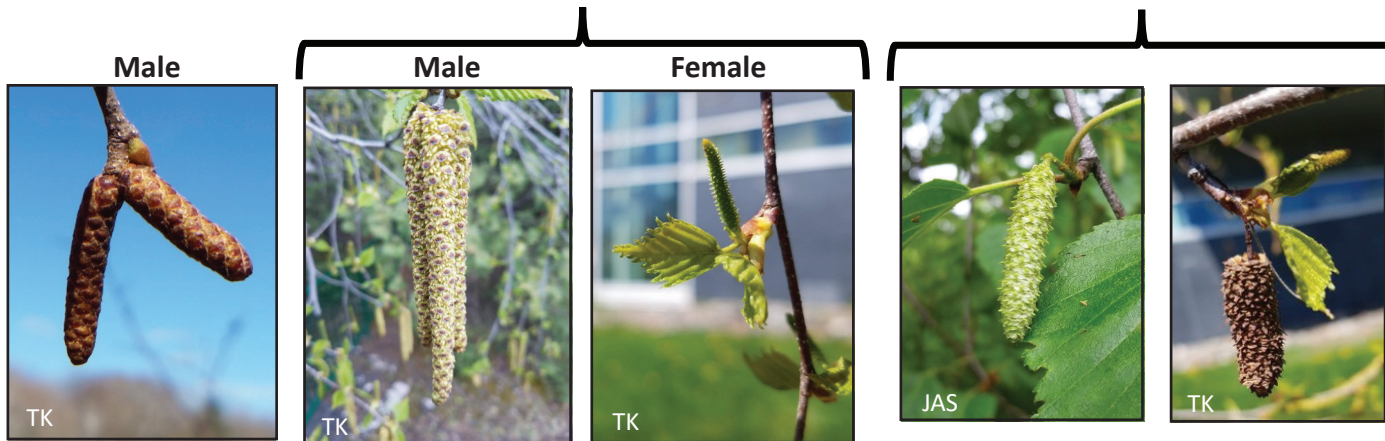
Colored leaves

One or more leaves show yellow or brown due to seasonal changes, drought or other stresses. *Do not include small spots of color, leaf damage, broken branches or fully dried/dead leaves.*



Flowers - One or more open or unopened flowers or buds are visible. Include buds that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers. *Birch* have separate male and female flowers that often open in May.

Fruit - One or more fruits are visible on the plant. *In birch, the fruit is initially green and looks cone-like. Select even when the fruit is not ripe.*



Dormant flowers

The male flowers are conspicuous and closed all winter. *You do not record this phase.*

Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible with reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) visible. Do not include wilted or dried flowers. In birch, it is best to look at the male flowers which are more conspicuous. When open, male flowers are hanging and loose.

Ripe fruit

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. *In birch, the fruit is ripe when it is tan/brown and readily drops when touched.*