Paper Birch

Betula papyrifera
Paper Birch/White Birch
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**General:** A deciduous tree 15–20 m tall. The bark is thin, smooth and reddish-brown on young trees; white and peels in paper-like strips on mature trees and is marked with brown horizontal lines of raised pores.

**Leaves & Twigs:** Leaves are egg to triangular-shaped and usually 3–8.5 cm long.

**Flowers & Fruit:** Male and female flowers grow in separate catkins on the same twigs. Male catkins 2–10 cm long look like yellowish-brown worms and hang from twig tips. Female catkins (2-4 cm long) appear with emerging leaves and stand erect at the branch tips.

**Habitat:** Found in open to dense woodland throughout Newfoundland and south of 57° in Labrador.

**Blooming Time:** mid-May to late June

**How to Observe:** Select and mark a mature tree with low-hanging catkins.

**First Bloom:** When the male catkins first start shedding pollen in at least three places on the tree.

**Mid Bloom:** When half the male catkins are shedding pollen.

**Leaf Out:** When the first leaves have emerged and unfolded completely in three different places on the tree.