

‘Dura Heat’ River Birch **(*Betula nigra* ‘Dura Heat’)**

River birch can grow 50 to 90 feet tall but is often seen 40 to 50 feet. It lacks the white trunk bark associated with other birches, instead having reddish-brown bark that peels off in film-like papery curls providing year-round interest.

It is very well-suited for planting along stream banks where it is native and in other wet areas since it tolerates low soil oxygen, flooding, and clay soil. However, this tree also does well in well-drained landscapes especially if planted in low areas and/or provided with adequate water.

River birch is hardy and grows rapidly in full sun or partial shade. It does require acid soil or will otherwise become chlorotic (yellow).

River Birches are not particularly adapted to heat but can make a nice tree if provided with irrigation and plenty of soil space.

The ‘Dura Heat’ cultivar is more heat tolerant, retaining its leaves longer into fall. This tree does provide a yellow fall color display, although usually of short duration.

Information Source:

Gilman, E. F. and Watson, D.G. (1993). *Betula nigra: River Birch*. University of Florida.
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st094>

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn

