



Birch

Betula papyrifera Marsh

Commercial names:

English:	Mountain Birch.
Spanish:	Abedul.
French:	Bouleau à papier.
Italian:	Betulla.
German:	Birke.

Common names:

Canada:	White Birch.
U.S.A.:	American Birch.

Physical properties:

Density:	580-620-740 kg/m ³	
Shrinkage:	Stable	
Shrinkage values:	Total	Unitary
Volumetric:	16.0%	(-)
Tangential:	9.0%	(-)
Radial:	6.0%	(-)
Hardness:	Soft	

Mechanical properties (Wood free of defects) (ASTM)

Static bending:	85 N/mm ²
Modulus of elasticity:	10,950 N/mm ²
Compression parallel to grain:	-
Compression perpendicular to grain:	4 N/mm ²
Shear:	8.3 N/mm ²

Origin and availability:

This wood is found in Canada and the United States. The forested area, production and export are stable.

Wood description:

The sapwood is creamy white in color and the heartwood is pale brown. The wood displays figures or grains that are highly valued in the furniture industry and for decorative purposes. The wood is straight-grained. The texture of the grain is fine.

Drying:

This is an easily dried wood. Extracts from this wood can cause discoloration. Recommended drying schedules are schedule H from the PRL, T10-C4 (4/4) and T8-C3 (8/4) from the FPLM.

Natural durability and ease of penetration:

The wood is classified as not durable against the action of fungi, and as susceptible to anobiids and termites. As to ease of penetration, the heartwood and sapwood vary from penetrable to moderately penetrable.

Technological properties:

This wood is very apt for obtaining rotary-cut veneer or sliced veneer. Machining presents no problems. Tools become dull at a normal rate. Reduction of the cutting angle to 201/4 is recommended when the wood is wavy-grained.

Gluing, nailing, screwing and finishing present no problems.

Applications:

Turnery: Spoons./ Paddles./ Bobbins./ Toys./ Agricultural implements. The best lumber is normally used for making plywood or for obtaining decorative veneers.