Tree Nursery Catalogue

Rare & unusual Birch & Alder from around the world
National Collections of Birch & Alder trees  
Patron: Lord Howick

ABOUT STONE LANE GARDENS
Stone Lane Gardens is the creation of June and Kenneth Ashburner, the owners of Stone Farm. Kenneth was a modern day plant hunter with a fascination for birch and alder trees. The garden started life back in 1971 as a space for Kenneth to start planting the birch and alder trees he was acquiring on trips abroad as well as trees given to him by other collectors. Gradual and artfully planned landscaping created the framework of the garden. A garden crammed full of unusual and beautiful trees, many of them rarely seen in the UK. In 1994 the importance of the tree collections was recognised by Plant Heritage (formally NCCPG), who awarded the garden National Collection status.

THE CHARITY NURSERY
Sadly in 2010 Kenneth died following a period of ill-health. In order to safeguard the future of the National Collections of Birch and Alder, a charity was created. The charity now runs the garden and nursery. One of the charity’s aims is to distribute our trees in order to encourage tree planting and increase biodiversity. This is carried out by our nursery.

Our nursery specialises in Birch and Alder trees, selling many of the rare and unusual species growing in our garden. By purchasing trees from our nursery, you are directly supporting the work of the Stone Lane Gardens charity.

HOW TO ORDER YOUR TREES
Complete the enclosed order form and return it to us along with your cheque. You can also order your trees through our website and pay by card. Alternatively you can phone or email us with your order.

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Charity no. 1141252 [Company no. 07398115]
Birch (*Betula*)

**Introduction**
The mythical ‘lady of the forest’, Birch trees have long been admired for their spectacular bark. Very few trees produce such a multitude of soft colours; from ghostly white through cream, orange, yellow-brown, pink, red, purple and dark chocolate brown. The texture of the bark is also unusual. Generally smooth and free-peeling; but sometimes flaky and always delightfully tactile. Add to this the delicacy of the leaves and branches (which only partially shade the ground beneath) and you have a tree of great value in the garden or park; beautiful but not overpowering.

Birch are pioneer trees, generally of mountain and heathland; evolved to grow quickly on the poorest of soils. They tolerate exposure and establish rapidly, making them useful for shelter belts or screening.

**Note to buyers:**
If you want to plant a copse of trees, choose our controlled-pollination seedlings. This will give you the subtle, natural variation between trees, as you would see in the wild. Our seedlings are strong growers and will soon develop into a beautiful and unusual grouping.

For more formal arrangements, where you want identical colouring between trees, choose one of the cultivars.

*A SEEDLING has been raised from controlled pollination seed, to ensure no hybridisation occurs. It grows on its own roots.*

*A CULTIVAR is a cutting from one specimen tree grafted onto a new rootstock. It is genetically identical to the tree it is grafted from. (a clone)*
**Betula albosinensis** (Chinese Red Birch)


**Betula albosinensis from Western Sichuan**

Plenty of reddish orange in the base colour of the bark, on which the light browns, yellows, and pinks are overlain. A famous collection by Ernest Wilson in Western Sichuan. Coll. No. W4106. Reliably strong, rapid growing **SEEDLINGS**. Very similar bark colouring to most ‘septentrionalis’.

**Betula albosinensis from Gansu**

A pronounced orange in the base colour, with the reds, yellow-browns and pinks overlain. Cultivated at Ness Gardens – from the Chinese Forestry Service, Gansu. Another strong growing **SEEDLING**.

**Betula albosinensis**

**‘Pink Champagne’**

A delicately soft pale pink bark colouring. A lighter barked tree than many **albosinensis** - selected from a specimen tree from Gansu in our arboretum. Very popular **CULTIVAR**.

**Betula albosinensis ‘China Rose’**

More solidly red bark with noticeably less blooming, making a stunning tree. A real eye-catcher. Selected from a specimen tree from Gansu in our arboretum. **CULTIVAR**
**Betula alleghaniensis** (Yellow Birch)

An interesting and unusual tree from North America, with twigs that smell of wintergreen when peeled. Attractive light yellow-brown bark with a silvery metallic sheen; slightly rough and peeling in thin tatters. Excellent winter interest tree. Very good yellow Autumn leaf colour. Likes damp, but not waterlogged, soil. **SEEDLING**

*Eventual height: 9-15 metres, medium spreading crown.*

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**Betula celtiberica**

A quick growing and tough birch from the mountains of north-west Spain. Rarely seen in UK nurseries. White bark and good autumn colour. **SEEDLING**

*Eventual height: 9-18 metres. Medium spreading crown.*

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**Betula cordifolia ‘Clarenville’** (Mountain Birch)

A tough but attractive tree from the mountains of Newfoundland, Canada. Pale pinkish-brown bark, peeling in loose sheets on older trunks. Very good yellow autumn leaf colour. Closely related to the paper birch (*B. papyrifera*). Rarely seen in UK nurseries. **CULTIVAR**

*Eventual height: 9-15 metres, lightly spreading crown.*

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**Betula dahurica ‘Maurice Foster’** (Dahurian Birch)

A stunning and most unusual tree from Hokkaido, Japan, with its shredded, tightly peeling bark. The outer bark is a pale creamy pink with darker reds and browns underneath. Good autumn colour. **CULTIVAR**

*Eventual height: 12-18 metres, medium-spreading crown.*
**Betula ermanii** (Stone Birch, Erman’s Birch)

A lovely stately tree from Japan, with outstanding, freely peeling bark; which is a smooth creamy orange. The lenticels on the trunks are very striking - they seem to swirl round the trunk and coalesce. Autumn leaf colour is always a rich orange. Will grow in well-drained soils but will achieve greater stature in a more moist area. **SEEDLING** *Eventual height: 12-18 metres, extensive spreading crown.*

**Betula ermanii** 'Mount Zao Purple'

A very striking tree from the extinct volcano of Mt Zao, Japan. A base colour of purple overlain with creamy orange, combined with very prominent horizontal bands of lenticels creating an almost striped appearance. This is so unusual that we decided to perpetuate it as a **CULTIVAR**. *Eventual height: 12-18 metres, extensive spreading crown.*

**Betula jacquemontii**

(See *Betula utilis* ssp. jacquemontii on page 8)

**Betula lenta** (Sweet Birch, Cherry Birch)

Slender trees from the mountains of North America. Dark grey-brown bark. The twigs smell of wintergreen when skinned. Attractive, hornbeam-like leaves with rich yellow autumn colour. In America, the trees are popular for tapping; yielding sweet and copious sap for wine and syrup making. **SEEDLING**

*Eventual height: 9-15 metres, lightly spreading crown.*

**Betula mandshurica** (syn. platyphylla)

Slender, delicate tree with smooth white bark that does not peel. Early leafing. Young translucent leaves are very attractive in the March sun. Far Eastern equivalent of our Silver Birch but with smoother bark. Good yellow autumn colour. **SEEDLING**

*Eventual height: 9-15 metres, very slender growth with small crown.*
**Betula medwedewii** (Medwedev’s birch)
Rare and attractive multi-stemmed shrub from the Caucasus mountains. Yellow-brown metallic bark which stands out in winter. Glossy and handsome leaves with showy fat upright fruits/cones. Autumn leaf colour is a rich yellow. **SEEDLING**
*Eventual height: 4-6 metres, multi-stemmed habit.*

**Betula papyrifera** from Minnesota
(Paper Birch/Canoe Birch)
An attractive, fast-growing tree from the USA with smooth white bark. Autumn leaf colour is a rich yellow or orange-yellow. **SEEDLING**
*Eventual height: 12-18 metres, lightly spreading crown.*

**Betula papyrifera ‘Belle Vue’**
(Paper Birch/Canoe Birch)
A form of paper birch from Newfoundland, Canada with a pinkish-brown bark. Autumn leaf colour is a rich yellow and stays on the tree for noticeably longer than any other provenance in our collection. Fast growing. **CULTIVAR**
*Eventual height: 12-18 metres, lightly spreading crown.*

**Betula papyrifera ‘St George’**
(Paper Birch/Canoe Birch)
Another fast-growing form of paper birch from Newfoundland, Canada. The bark is lighter coloured than ‘Belle Vue’, becoming a pale pinkish white when mature. Excellent form with good persistent golden yellow leaves in autumn. **CULTIVAR**
*Eventual height: 12-18 metres, lightly spreading crown.*
**Betula papyrifera var. commutata**
(Paper Birch/Canoe Birch)

These trees from Vancouver, Canada have a very interesting, tactile bark. The variety ‘commutata’ has much rougher bark than most Paper Birch with large prominent lenticels. The bark colour is generally dark red/brown with lighter patches of pink. Autumn leaf colour is a rich yellow. A fast-growing tree that is quite robust and tough. **CULTIVAR**

Eventual height: 12-18 metres, medium spreading crown.

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**Betula pendula ‘Tristis’** (Silver birch)

A form of our native silver birch with exaggerated weeping branchlets. A delicate white barked tree that is very popular. **CULTIVAR**


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**Betula populifolia** (Wire Birch/ Grey birch)

North American equivalent of Betula pendula with more elegant, pointed leaves; particularly attractive in the thin and translucent spring leaf. The bark is grey/white and totally smooth with no visible peeling or fissuring whatsoever. Strong yellow autumn colour. **SEEDLING**

Eventual height: 9-15 metres, lightly spreading crown.

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**Betula pubescens** (Downy Birch)

Vigorous tree with generally white, slightly rough bark and broad spreading habit. Very tough. Native to the UK. Good autumn colour. Excellent for quickly establishing a woodland or shelter/screen. **SEEDLING**

Eventual height: 9-18 metres, broad spreading crown.
**Betula utilis** (Himalayan Birch)

*Betula utilis* and its varieties are found throughout the Himalayan mountain chain and into China. The Himalayan Birch is a fine ornamental tree with superb bark, slender growth and light shade. In the wild the bark colours range from chocolate brown through red, orange, pink and white. All provenances have very smooth barks peeling freely in sheets and scrolls; particularly effective when backlit by the low winter sun. A beautiful and much under-rated tree, that makes a great focal point in any garden.

*Eventual height: 9-15 metres, lightly spreading crown.*

**Betula utilis 'Bhutan Sienna'**

‘Bhutan Sienna’ has a lovely glossy dark red bark with a brown tint and attractive deeply veined leaves. Collected by Sinclair and Long in Bhutan. **CULTIVAR**

**Betula utilis 'Forest Blush'**

A reddish orange bark, overlain with a really prominent bloom of white betulin, which gives some trees an almost white appearance. One of our paler utilis, which looks very effective in closely planted groups. The leaves are dark and glossy with deeply indented veins. Collected by George Forrest in Sichuan, China. Coll. no. F19505. **CULTIVAR OR SEEDLING**

**Betula utilis 'Mt. Luoji'**

A very popular darker barked tree, from Mt Luoji, Sichuan, China. A beautiful glossy dark brown bark with a hint of red together with patches of white bloom. A very rich bark colouring. Collected by Lord Howick. Coll. no. H&M1480 **CULTIVAR OR SEEDLING**
**Betula utilis 'Nepalese Orange'**

This utilis from central Nepal has a rich orange bark, with very noticeable horizontal bands of lenticels and very soft blooming. A very attractive and unusual tree. Quite hardy but not suitable for very frosty or exposed areas. Collected by Roy Lancaster. Coll. no. BL&M100.

**CULTIVAR OR SEEDLING**

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**Betula utilis 'Park Wood'**

A lovely Chinese birch much admired for its outstanding smooth, dark chocolate bark. Mis-named *Betula utilis var. prattii* for many years. The parent tree still exists as a magnificent specimen at Hergest Croft, Herefordshire. Acc. no. Park Wood 1123

**CULTIVAR**

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**Betula utilis ssp. jacquemontii** (White Himalayan birch)

The pure white form of *Betula utilis*. Much sought after for its stark white bark, peeling in parchment-like sheets which are orange-buff beneath. The ghostly effect is particularly impressive in the winter or when grown against a dark background.

**SEEDLING**

Eventual height: 9-15 metres, moderately spreading crown.
Alder (Alnus)

Introduction
Alders are much under-rated trees, with some excellent properties. They are quick-growing and very tough. They will grow in waterlogged ground but will also grow just about anywhere else and are surprisingly drought-tolerant. They make ideal shelter belts and can be used for sheltering slower-growing trees. All alders fix nitrogen in the soil, have amazing catkin displays and some of the green alders become fine multi-stemmed shrubs.

Alnus barbata
A fast growing, broad-spreading alder, with a characteristically thick rough trunk and dense shade. Larger leaved than its close relative A. glutinosa.
Native to the countries surrounding the Black Sea, such as Turkey, Armenia and Georgia. SEEDLING
Eventual height: 12-18 metres, medium spreading crown. Dense shading.

Alnus glutinosa
A tough, fast growing tree commonly found throughout Europe beside water. An attractive tree with scores of cones prominent on the tree all through the winter. This selection is our most southerly provenance from the Sierra Nevada mountains of Spain. It appears to be fully hardy despite its southern home!
SEEDLING
Eventual height: 12-18 metres, medium spreading crown. Dense shading.
Alnus fauriei
Attractive and unusual shrubby alder from Japan. Notable for its very large paddle-like rounded leaves and striking purple catkins (upright during winter then loosening and hanging in the Spring). Usually multi-stemmed, its compact size makes it a delightful feature for any garden. SEEDLING
Eventual height: 4-6 metres, multi-stemmed habit.

Alnus hirsuta
An attractive Alder from Japan with lovely scalloped leaves and very persistent cones that stay on the tree for several years. The catkins appear on the tree in January, livening up your garden during this dull period of winter. SEEDLING
Eventual height: 10-15 metres, medium spreading crown.

Alnus maximowiczii
Grown for its very showy display of big, fat green/yellow catkins in spring. Handsomely double-toothed large leaves that provide heavy shade. More of a tree than most of the green alders. Sometimes multi-stemmed. These vigorous trees come from the island of Ullong Do, between Japan and Korea. SEEDLING
Eventual height: 9-12 metres, medium spreading crown

Alnus sinuata (Sitka alder)
This is the Green Alder of the Rockies which in Alaska covers vast areas of mountainside in dense thickets. Greyish-white bark, which shines wonderfully in the winter sun. Shiny, consistently double-toothed leaves which are lustrous beneath, and long catkins in spring. SEEDLING
Eventual height: 4-7 metres, multi-stemmed habit
**Alnus subcordata**

A broad, handsome tree with rough, fissured bark and many spreading branches. Will grow rapidly in any habitat, even in exposure, making it one of the fastest growing alders. A fine show of large catkins in January. Native from the Caucasus down to Iran. **CULTIVAR**

Eventual height: 12-21 metres, broadly spreading crown with dense shade.

**Alnus viridis**

Shrubby, multi-stemmed small tree from the European Alps. The quirkily shaped limbs are often wonderfully silvery in the winter sun. When closely grouped, the cris-crossing multiple stems produce a very unusual and impressive effect. Good catkin display. Fragrant, resinous buds. Ideal for wind breaks and screening. **SEEDLING**

Eventual height: 3-6 metres, multi-stemmed habit
Accessories

For trees taller than 4 foot
We strongly recommend a tree stake, a tree tie and a rabbit guard. The stake is set in the ground, ideally at a 45 degree angle. The tree is then fixed to the stake using a tie. A rabbit guard is then wrapped around the stem to protect against damage by rabbits and voles.

For trees smaller than 4 foot
We strongly recommend a cane support and a rabbit guard. The cane is inserted vertically in the ground next to the stem. Then wrap the rabbit guard around the stem and cane to secure the tree.

We can supply the following items to help your trees establish better:-

Pointed softwood stakes
A robust way of securing your tree. Recommended for all trees over 4 foot tall.

Bamboo canes
For securing small trees under 4 foot.

Deluxe tree tie and cushion
Comes with a soft rubber cushion to hold the young stem firmly without rubbing. Easy nail-on tie with pre-drilled nail holes.

Budget tree tie and spacer
A low-cost way of securing your tree to its stake. Easy nail-on tie with pre-drilled nail holes.

Rabbit guards
Protect your young trees from the unwanted attention of rabbits and voles with these spiral tree guards. Easily wrapped round the stem, they expand with the growth. Length 24 inches.

For full instructions on how to plant trees, please see the guides in the Tree Nursery section of our website.