

OUT OF THE BOX

BIRCH TREE "FOX VALLEY"

Your trees are shipped in grower's pots and should be transplanted into larger pots or into the ground as soon as is convenient. Once planted they may take 4-6 weeks, depending upon the weather and other environmental conditions, to become established and start showing new growth. You can be assured they will begin setting roots and start growing very soon after planting. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care, and be patient



We urge you to plant your new arrivals as soon as possible. In the event planting must be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag that is around the plant down and place in or near a bright window. Also, keep the soil in the pots moist. These are small pots that may need to be watered at least every other day.

Dwarf river birch, also known as *Betula nigra* 'Fox Valley'. This compact, multi-stemmed shrub/tree with an irregular crown is very disease-resistant. River birch is the answer to many landscape needs. It typically grows to only 10 feet tall with a 12 foot spread. It features orangish/brownish bark which peels away, even at an early age, revealing the lighter shades underneath. Great for smaller landscapes as a tree or large shrub.

**Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.*

Thank you for your order

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

CAUTION: Not all plant material is edible.

Though most plants are harmless, some contain toxic substances which can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, or other discomforts. As a general rule, only known food products should be eaten. In case of ingestion, please contact your local poison control center at once and advise them of the plant ingested.

Keep out of reach of children.

BIRCH TREE



QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to partial sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	4 to 9.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	25 to 50 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 24-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	10 feet or more with a 12 foot spread.
BLOOM TIME	N/A.

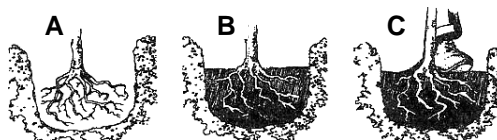
SOIL PREPARATION

Although these plants will perform well in average garden soils of all types, we recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.csrees.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). These tests can determine if the soil needs any amendments to enhance your plants' growth and performance. See below for our recommended practice to improve your soil without any additional testing:

1	Spade or till the soil to a depth of 12-18 inches.
2	To provide nutrients and improve drainage, add organic matter to your soil by mixing in a 2 to 4-inch layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost, shredded leaves, and/or peat moss.
3	After active growth begins, periodically feed with a water-soluble fertilizer. Plants in containers need more frequent watering and feeding, especially when in active growth and bloom.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

A	Dig a hole large enough to allow the roots plenty of room with a few inches of space beyond the root ball and the sides of the hole. Remove the tree from its pot and place the root ball in the planting hole.
B	Position the plant so that the top of the root ball will be even with ground level
C	Once the plant is positioned at the proper planting depth, begin filling the hole with soil. Work the soil around the roots with your hands. When the hole is half filled, tamp the soil to remove any air pockets.



D	Fill the planting hole with water and let it soak in. Straighten the plant in the hole and finish filling with soil.
E	Form a "saucer" of soil around the edges of the planting hole and fill it with water.



F	To assist the roots in getting anchored, be sure to stake the tree. This will also maintain upper balance so that the trunk will continue to grow straight.
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CONTINUING CARE

MULCHING	Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures, and to discourage weed growth.
WATERING	Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with all plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.
PRUNING	Improves the size and quality of the tree. Remove any branches that become overlapped, damaged, or unsightly.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

WATERING	Adequate and consistent watering is essential during the plant's first year in your garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil surrounding the root zone are more effective than frequent light applications of water that may wet the top of the soil only.
	Due to individual plant needs, geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is hard to define; however, as a rule of thumb you should not allow the soil to completely dry out. During periods of drought and extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every day. Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant does not become a water-holding bog and that there is adequate drainage to move excess water away from the plant.
FEEDING	Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.
	A thorough watering in late fall will greatly enhance the plant's cold tolerance. The time to protect your plants in the garden is after the ground has frozen. At that time, apply a winter mulch of evergreen boughs, straws or leaves to prevent lifting of the plant's roots during alternating periods of freezing and thawing.
WINTERIZING	For container planting, move plants next to your home's southern foundation for added warmth and protection. They may also be moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar. If moved to a protected area, be sure to check the soil moisture every 7-10 days and water as needed. In spring, remove the mulch from in-ground plantings. Also, bring containerized plants back out into the garden sunlight where they will immediately begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.