

# Caring for Your Birch

Birch trees in Minnesota, such as the paper birch and river birch, thrive in our State’s diverse forests. River birch trees are native to stream banks, while paper birch are typically found in cool, moist northern forests. With their striking bark and elegant appearance, these trees add aesthetic charm to any landscape.

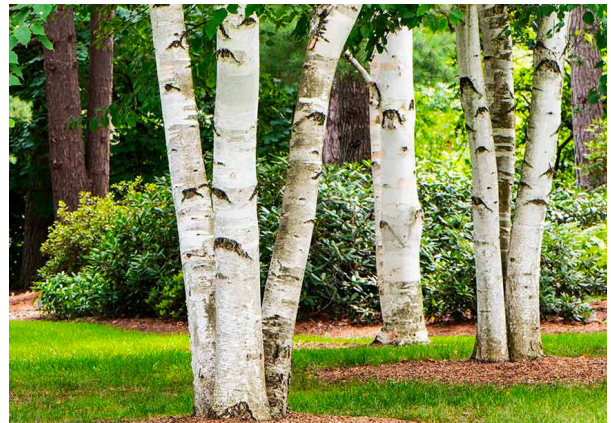
In the urban ecosystem, birch trees are susceptible to several common health issues and can benefit greatly from care practices that help them thrive and provide the maximum benefits to your property.

## Common Health Issues to Look For

Tree Health Issue	Symptom You May See
Bronze birch borer	Dead branches from top
Birch leaf miner	Squiggly lines on leaves
Nutrient deficiency	Early yellowing leaves
Drought	Yellow color, drooping leaves
Decay	Holes, woodpecker activity



River birch



Paper birch

## Birch Care Best Practices

Keeping your birch trees healthy is the first step in enjoying their benefits for years to come. Urban trees endure many stressors that compromise their health. Along with regular watering and mulching, the following treatments are recommended for ultimate tree resilience.

### GOOD

- Proper Watering
- Mulching
- Bronze Birch Borer Protection
- Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat®

### BETTER

- Proper Watering
- Mulching
- Bronze Birch Borer Protection
- Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat®
- Tree Nutrition

### BEST

- Proper Watering
- Mulching
- Bronze Birch Borer Protection
- Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat®
- Tree Nutrition
- Root Enhancement Service

See back page for service descriptions.

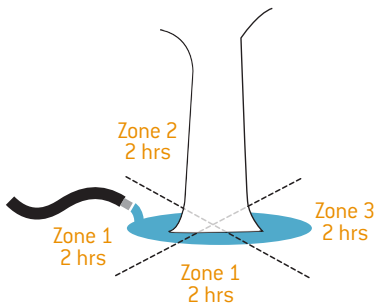
# Birch Care Terms and Tips

## Proper Watering

After multiple years of drought conditions Minnesota trees need additional care to keep them healthy and strong. Watering is the most important way to help. Follow one of these 3 methods to keep your trees properly watered. *Repeat weekly during summer if not receiving at least 0.5" of rain.*

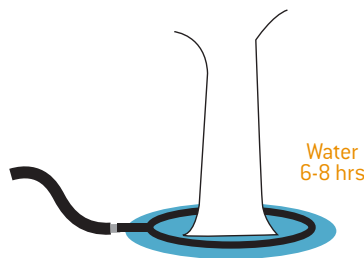
### METHOD 1 GARDEN HOSE

Set to trickle (more than a drip and less than a gurgle). Divide the tree area into 4 zones. Position the hose 2-3 feet from the trunk in Zone 1 and let water soak for 2 hours. Repeat for all sections.



### METHOD 2 SOAKER HOSE

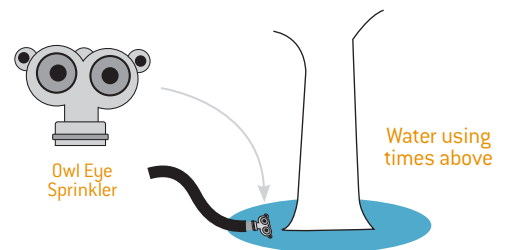
Wrap the hose around the base of the tree at least 1-2 feet from the trunk. Water 6-8 hours.



### METHOD 3 OWL EYES SPRINKLER

Place under the tree about 2-3 feet from the base and water until soil feels moist, but not saturated.

- 15 minutes for a 10" diameter tree
- 20 minutes for a 15" diameter tree
- 30 minutes for a 20" or larger diameter tree



## Mulching

Mulching is a way around several stressors common to our suburban and urban trees. Studies have shown that trees can grow up to five times more fine roots under mulch than they would under turf grass, which helps them find and uptake water and nutrients in the soil more efficiently.

## Bronze Birch Borer Protection

Bronze birch borer protections effectively prevent or minimize infestations. Treatment timelines will vary dependent upon the levels of tree infestation. Protecting birch trees with proper treatment or prevention safeguards them from further damage or death.

## Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat

This service increases a tree's resiliency through fine root production, stronger leaf tissue, and defense compounds to help against pests and disease.

## Tree Nutrition

Our tree nutrition services provide supplemental fertilizer nutrients to improve tree health, increase resistance to pests and diseases, and better hold water and nutrients from the soil.

## Root Enhancement Service

Urban trees are faced with compacted soils and poor soil conditions that they wouldn't encounter in the forest. Our Root Enhancement Service promotes root growth and improved tree health by replicating forest soils with organic matter and creating the perfect growing environment.