PLANT FACT SHEET

Betula kenaica W. H. Evans

GENUS *Betula* **FAMILY** Betulaceae

COMMON NAMES Kenai Birch, Alaskan Paper Birch

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves

Young leaves and catkins are eaten raw.
The buds and twigs are used to flavour soup.
The inner bark is eaten raw or cooked. It can be dried and made into flour.
The sap can be used for syrup.

DESCRIPTION

A small tree. It grows 9-12 m high and spreads 6-9 m wide. It has a narrow crown. It looses its leaves during the year. The leaves are oval or triangular. They have coarse teeth. It is shiny dark green above and light yellowish-green underneath. The flowers are in catkins with male and female flowers separate. The male ones are 2.5 long and the female ones 2.5 cm long on stiff stalks.

HABITAT

Temperate. In Alaska it grows along the coast and up to 300 m above sea level. It can grow in light shade. It is best with moist soil. It suits hardiness zones 1-8.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds.

NOTES

There are about 60 Betula species. They grow in cool north temperate climates.

REFERENCES

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