

Silver or warty birch

The silver birch is tall and straight with hanging branches. It is often called hanging birch or masur birch. In Latin it is called *Betula verrucosa*. It means "the birch with warts". The twigs are full of small resin warts. The leaves have small teeth on the teeth and are widest closest to the stem.

The silver birch belongs to the woodlands and never grows near the mountains. It thrives best on dry ground.

Because the trunk is tall and straight, it can be sawed to be boards and planks. Some warty birches have lumpy fibers and are called masur birches. It is something different from what the Sami craftsmen call *masur*, which is found in the root wood of moor birches. But it looks similar.

In the winter, the squirrels sit in large flocks in the warty birches and eat birch twigs.

Dwarf birch

The dwarf birch is the smallest birch, never more than a meter high, just a bush. On the mountain it crawls like a carpet on the ground. Cuttings sticking above the snow cover dry out. The dwarf birch has small leaves, like mouse ears. The twigs are brown, never white as in other birches.

Even on the mountain it is possible to find firewood. You can dig down to the dwarf birch under the snow. It burns well even when fresh.

Both valley grouse and mountain grouse like to eat dwarf birch during the winter. Where the grouse flock has advanced, the snow has been kicked away.

At the treeline you may find hybrids between dwarf birch and mountain birch. The leaves look like those of the dwarf birch but are as large as those of the moor birch.