

## **The life of the birch tree**

We have three species of birch in our country, silver or warty birch, moor birch, and dwarf birch. The knotty mountain birch is a subspecies of the moor birch. The birch species have a lot in common.

**This happens over a year.**

### **Autumn of the birch**

When the birch's leaves turn yellow and red, it is a sign that it is preparing for winter. The chlorophyll, the greenness of the leaf disappear. The nutrients in the leaves are used and pumped down into the branches, trunk, and root. Only now are the yellow and red colors that was hidden in the leaves visible.

### **Winter is coming**

When the leaves fall to the ground, new buds are already ready. They will be next year's leaves. Shiny and hard shells protect the fragile buds against winter drought.

### **The spring**

The birch has male and female flowers on the same tree. The male flowers are in stiff pendants that have been ready all winter. When it comes to spring, they grow, become long, and soft. The female flowers are in their own pendants. They grow out of their buds at the same time as the leaf emerges. The female pendants are small and point upwards. The pollen, which "smokes" from the swaying male pendants, sticks to them.

### **The summer**

When the female flowers in the pendant are fertilized, they grow into seeds. Hundreds in each pendant. The pendants grow and become heavy. By autumn, the seeds are ripe and dance away in the wind. This is how the birch spreads.