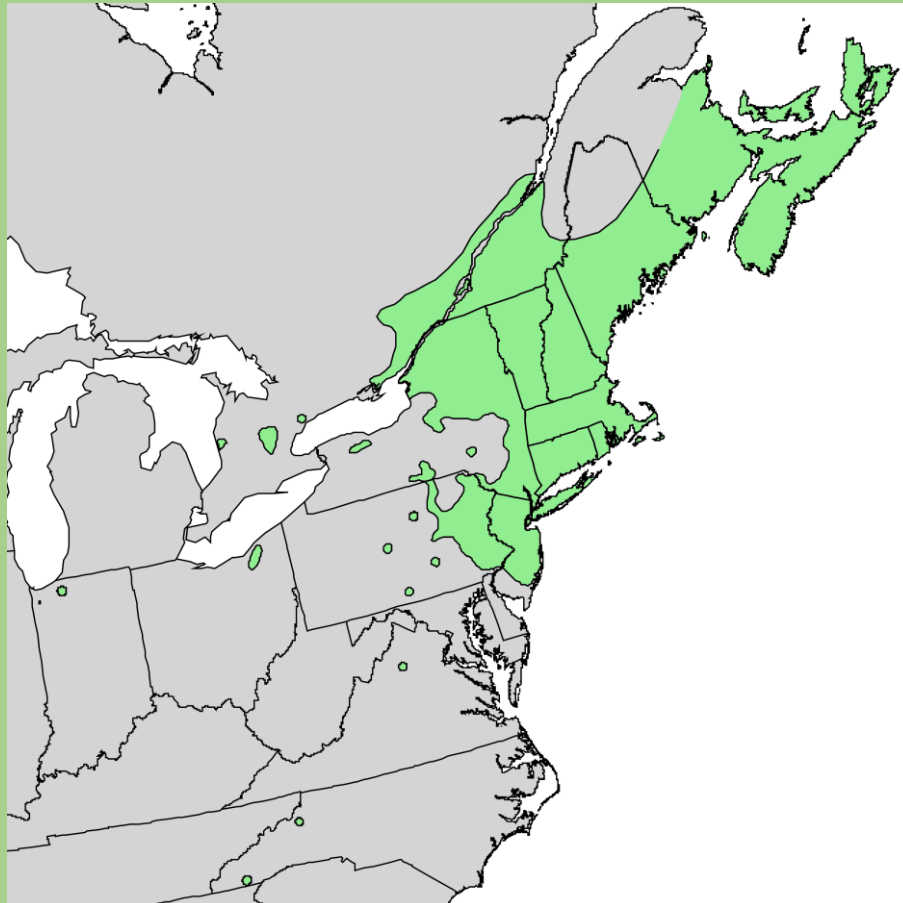


Gray Birch

Betula populifolia



The Gray Birch is a deciduous hardwood native to the southeastern Canada, northeastern US, and portions of the Mid Atlantic. A generally weak and short-lived tree of 20 years, it can still grow up to 40 feet tall. Its leaves have alternate arrangement and are pointed at the tips—forming a long triangular shape alongside its double-toothed edges. Flowers grow in early spring and seeds fall soon after in late summer. The bark is a dull white, with black patches around each branch, which themselves are dark gray. Unlike other birch trees, the bark does not peel as often and likewise does not attain a large size. It nonetheless remains popular for it's easy to use wood, landscaping, and revegetation. It also provides food for wildlife, with birds eating its seeds and mammals, like porcupines and beavers, feeding on the bark.