

Betula species

Betula lutea

Betula papyrifera

Papyrifera pendula

Papyrifera platyphylla

Betula seeds germinate with or without pre-treatment, cold scarification can hasten germination but some scientific studies say otherwise.

Betula seed requires light to induce germination so it is important to surface sow your seed and to only cover it very lightly and to place your germinating container or tray in a light sunny position.

Sow seed in a good quality seed raising mix in seed trays. Cover the seed lightly. Maintain the media in a moist but damp position. As this seed is fine and light it is probably best to water from below (place your seed tray in a water bath) or if watering from above use a very fine rose or disturb seed as little as possible. Best temperature for germination is between about 18 and 21°C daytime temperature.

POTTING ON – Prick the seedlings out into individual pots when they are large enough to handle pots and grow them on in a shade house for at least their first winter. Plant them out into their permanent positions in late spring or early summer, after the last expected frosts.

Protect young plants from slugs and snails.