



Betula fontinalis, WATER BIRCH

The largest grower of California native plants in the state, Tree of Life Nursery has been located on the historic Rancho Mission Viejo in San Juan Capistrano for over 20 years. Largely a wholesale nursery, the *Roundhouse Plant Store* is open to the public Fridays year-round and Saturdays in fall and spring. For those interested in learning more, we offer a large selection of books on the California region regarding landscaping and horticulture, natural history, conservation, and more. The nursery's catalog, "Plants of El Camino Real," is a beautifully arranged collection of information about the plants we grow, with helpful hints for landscapers and gardeners looking for the right plant for the right place. Come experience Tree of Life for yourself!

RIPARIAN UNDERSTORY

- Allium hyalinum*
- Aquilegia formosa*
- Carex tumulicola*
- Cornus sericea*
- Fragaria californica*
- Mimulus cardinalis*
- Mimulus guttatus*
- Oenothera elata*
- Polystichum munitum*
- Ribes aureum*
- Rosa californica*
- Venegasia carpesioides*
- Woodwardia fimbriata*

Water Birch or Red Birch grows in moist places in coniferous forests up to 9,000 feet in elevation. Found mostly along streams and springs, it is a fast growing deciduous multi-trunked tree reaching 25 feet tall. Red stems and attractive bronze bark make it a nice choice for a small ornamental tree. The foliage turns yellow in fall and small brown catkins appear in spring. In groups or as a single specimen, Water Birch needs regular moisture. For an authentic California setting, create a spring-fed stream using a drip emitter hidden behind boulders, and line it with *Betula fontinalis* and appropriate understory natives (see list, left). Same as *B. occidentalis*.

PLANT PROFILES

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