

There are several species and varieties of the birch known as the black birch, the yellow birch, the white birch and the grey birch.

Black birch was much used in ship-building, for which it is admirably adapted, being a strong, close grained and durable wood. The cabinet makers use it in the construction of tables, bedsteads and various kinds of furniture. It is a large tree frequently attaining to the size of four feet in diameter. It is found most plentifully in a damp alluvial soil and its presence indicates good land. A considerable amount of birch is made into what is called ton timber and is exported to England. The market for this species of wood is, however, quite limited. There is no doubt a great future for the birch forests of the province for the manufacture of furniture.

Yellow birch is similar in most respects to black birch, and is used for the same purposes, its timber is very valuable and it is very durable under water.

The white birch, to which the canoe birch is near akin, generally grows in poor dry soils, but in some places where it thrives, the land is productive, and in many spots along the margins of the Straits of Northumberland and near the rivers emptying therein the white birch is met with in large groves interspersed with spruce, fir, pine and other soft woods. It generally is long and slender, often reaching a height of 50 or 60 feet with a diameter of less than a foot at the base. The canoe birch, however, sometimes attains a height of 80 feet and a diameter of 2 feet at the butt. The wood of the white birch is not strong or durable, but being of fine grain and light, it is much used in the manufacture of showcases, spools, bobbins, chairs and wooden dishes. It is from the bark of the canoe birch