

## **Betula species – Birch**

The seeds are very light and will disperse with the slightest breeze, please bear this in mind when opening the pack. The seeds themselves are oval and flat, the other material with them are the scales from the catkin, which it is near impossible to separate from the seeds.

### **Pre-treatment:**

Sow seeds in early autumn in good potting compost, barely covering the seed. Water and seal in polythene bag and place outside or in cold-frame to allow winter weather to assist in breaking dormancy of seed.

Alternatively if seed cannot be sown in autumn, soak seed for 24 hours in luke warm water, then sow as above, again barely covering and then place the sealed pot in the fridge for around 6 – 8 weeks, then bring out and place somewhere that is at least 60 Deg F.

The seeds should germinate within a few weeks of each other, but the actual time it takes varies depending on growing conditions and how well the stratification has worked.

### Growing on:

Plant out, either in the autumn/winter after germination or the following year. Initial growth is fast, so any training will have to start early. Those destined for bonsai use should be potted individually in pots of good quality soil based compost.