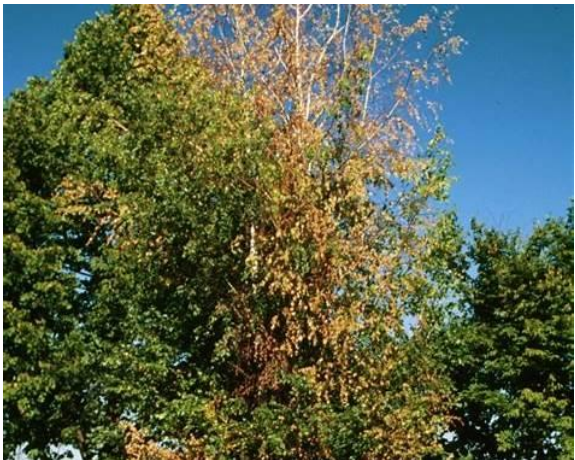


White Birch

(*Betula pendula* — European White Birch / Silver Birch; also applies to other white-bark birches)

White Birch is valued for its elegant white bark and fine-textured leaves, but it **struggles in Colorado’s hot, dry, alkaline conditions**. It is highly susceptible to **bronze birch borer**, **leaf miners**, **chlorosis**, and **drought stress**. Of all birches, White Birch is **one of the least adapted** to the Front Range climate.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Bronze birch borer (major issue)	Insect/borer	Summer	☀️
Birch leaf miner	Insect	Spring–Summer	🌸☀️
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Chlorosis (alkaline soil)	Abiotic	Spring–Summer	🌸☀️
Drought/heat stress	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	☀️🍂
Canker diseases	Fungus	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Spider mites	Mite	Summer (hot/dry)	☀️

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Bronze Birch Borer (Most Serious Threat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinning canopy starting at top • D-shaped exit holes in bark • Dieback progressing downward • Bark splits or ridges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional trunk sprays in early summer • Deep, consistent watering (critical!) • Remove heavily infested trees—borer spreads quickly
Birch Leaf Miner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown blotches inside leaves • Papery, translucent leaf spots • Early leaf drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually cosmetic • Rake leaves to reduce next year’s population • Pro systemic treatment if severe
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew • Sooty mold on leaves and surfaces • Leaf curling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Encourage lady beetles • Systemic treatments if infestations are heavy

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Chlorosis (Very Common in CO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow foliage with green veins • Poor growth & twig dieback • Worsens in alkaline soils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron injections (most effective) • Soil acidifying amendments • Reduce overwatering & improve aeration
Drought / Heat Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf scorch • Early yellowing and leaf drop • Progressive dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep watering every 1–2 weeks • Maintain mulch ring • Avoid planting in full sun, reflected heat, or dry sites
Canker Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunken bark patches • Branch dieback • Oozing sap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune infected limbs • Sanitize tools • Improve tree vigor—no chemical cure
Spider Mites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stippled or bronzed leaves • Fine webbing • Dry, dusty leaf surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Increase watering frequency • Miticide if severe

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Top-down canopy thinning (classic **bronze birch borer**)
- D-shaped exit holes along trunk or branches
- Severe chlorosis leading to dieback
- Major twig dieback each season
- Repeated mite outbreaks causing bronzing
- Canker lesions expanding along trunk

White Birch decline is very common in Colorado—many trees fail due to **heat, alkaline soils, and drought stress**.

● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light leaf miner blotches
- Small amounts of honeydew from aphids
- Minor scorch during hot spells
- Early fall color in dry years
- Occasional leaf spotting

These typically improve with **proper watering and seasonal recovery**.