



Nursery News

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Carpinus caroliniana

American Hornbeam

The American Hornbeam is a low maintenance native tree perfect for landscapes and naturalized areas. Hornbeam tolerates a wide range of conditions, from moist, fertile, acidic soils, to sandy and slightly alkaline sites.

The mature trunk and larger branches exhibit a distinctive fluting, resembling muscles. This unusual form creates an interesting winter form.

When grown in full sun, this tree develops a dense oval crown. However, when grown in partial shade the crown tends to be more open.

Although tolerant of occasional flooding, the American Hornbeam is not drought tolerant.

A number of different birds and animals eat the seeds and foliage, including pheasants, turkey, fox, squirrels, and deer. It has excellent wildlife value.

This slow growing, small to medium understory tree can be used as a residential street tree, near decks or patios and as a hedge.

The whitish, extremely hard wood has been used for making tools, levers, ox yokes, bowls and dishes.

Leaves: Waxy green 2-4 inch oblong leaves turn orange red and yellow in the fall.



Flowers: Orange to yellow-green 1-2 inch catkins develop on new branch tips.



Bark: Smooth gray bark is fluted, giving the tree a muscular appearance.

Fruit: Ribbed nutlet surrounded by a leaf-like bract ripen in late summer and persist through winter.

