

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Carpinus caroliniana

American Hornbeam



Also called blue beech, ironwood, or musclewood. Horizontal, picturesque branching habit. Smooth, dark grey bark, fluted and sinewy that looks like muscles. Fall color can be spectacular orange to red. Does well in partial shade. Difficult to transplant; move balled and burlapped in early spring.

Suggested companions: American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), downy serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium, by Kenneth J. Sytsma

Plant Type: Small Tree
Size: 10-30' H
20-30' W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Forested Upland
Forested Wetland
Streambanks

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Rich Moist
Very Damp/Wet

Exposure: filtered
shade

Flower Color:
Green

Plant in: Spring

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:
April
May

Other Attributes:
Fall color
Winter interest