

American Hornbeam

Carpinus caroliniana

The Birch Family (Betulaceae)

Basic Description: American Hornbeam is also known as Ironwood, Blue Beech, and Musclewood. It is a small tree with a smooth, light colored, "muscled" bark and alternate, deciduous leaves.

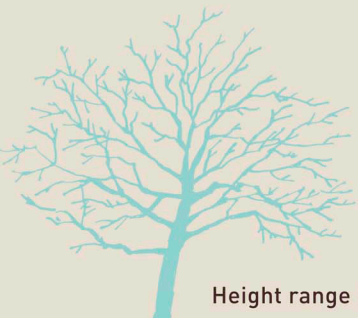
Interesting Facts: Ironwood is not a viable lumber source, but its very strong heartwood makes it a good wood source for tools and dishware. Host plant for the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Striped Hairstreak and Red-spotted Purple butterfly species.

Flower: Male flowers: a slender, yellow-green catkin, 1-2" long; Female flowers: fuzzy, yellow-green catkins, .5-.75" long.

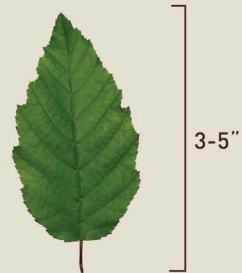
Fruit: Nutlet with a green three-winged bract found in hanging clusters .

Wildlife Value: Leaves, twigs, and nutlets are a food source for birds and mammals, and a construction material for beavers.

Habitat: Shaded woods, streams, river banks, flood plains, bottomlands.



Height range 20-40'



LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



POLLINATOR

WIND



WILDLIFE VALUE

MEDIUM

