

AMERICAN HORNBEAM, BLUE BEECH, IRONWOOD, MUSCLEWOOD

Carpinus caroliniana



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Mature Height	Up to 30 feet	Soil Type	Moist, well-drained. Adapts to dry
Mature Spread	Up to 20 feet	Flower Color	Light Green
Mature Form	Flat to Round Topped	Foliage Color	Green—Often Shiny
Growth Rate	Slow	Fall Color	Red, Orange, Yellow, Purplish
Sun Exposure	Full Sun to Full Shade	Zones	3-9
Soil Moisture	Moist		

American Hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*, is also called Blue Beech, Ironwood and Musclewood and gets its name from its smooth, blue-gray bark that is similar to the American Beech. It is also often called Musclewood alluding to its muscular looking trunk and Ironwood in reference to its very hard, dense wood. In the landscape it will create interest and provide a tree for discussion. Fruits are eaten by squirrels and many birds including Bob White Quail and Wild Turkey.

This tree has no significant diseases or pest problems and is an excellent tree when a small tree is needed for a partially shaded area. It is available from some nurseries but not easily located.



All Photos from Ohio DNR



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