

American Hornbeam Or Ironwood



Carpinus caroliniana

This small Native tree is a host plant for the Tiger Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Striped Hairstreak and the Red-Spotted Purple. The seeds are eaten by songbirds, Quail, Pheasant, Grouse, and game birds. It is an important food source for Gray Squirrels. The seeds can be utilized as an emergency food source. The inner bark of the Hornbeam is an astringent and has been used medicinally. Also known as Musclewood, it will tolerate occasional flooding.

- Hardiness: Zone 3-9
- Size: 20-30'
- Habit: Small tree, often multi-stemmed, slow growth rate
- Culture: Prefers deep, rich, moist, slightly acid soils. Tolerates dry and is fairly adaptable. Will tolerate full shade.
- Uses: Naturalizing, street tree, moist soils, specimen, wildlife, strong wood, edible, medicinal,

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