

# Carpinus betulus

## Hornbeam, European hornbeam, Common hornbeam



*Carpinus betulus* (hornbeam) has a large natural distribution area. It grows practically all over Europe, but also in Turkey, Iran, and Poland. The species is also common along the Baltic Sea. It is a medium-sized to large tree, which in cultivation is often limited to 20 metres in height with a wide, egg-shaped, dense crown. The hornbeam is suitable for a wide range of topiary and is perfect for use as a solid climbing tree with its sturdy branches.

The hornbeam blooms with yellow-green hanging catkins in April, before the leaves start to sprout. The egg-shaped, doubly serrate leaves are bright green and turn brown-yellow in the autumn. The fruits are small, winged, brown-green nuts, which hang from the tree in racemes. *Carpinus betulus* keeps a dense crown for a long time and then offers solid protection from the wind.

The hornbeam is well able to tolerate heat, drought, wind and air pollution. With 5A winterhardiness, it's a fantastic climate tree that can be used in a wide variety of locations. These could include lanes, parks, central reservations and (roof) gardens. But the hornbeam also does well in cemeteries, industrial locations and as a windbreak. The tree has a preference for nutrient-rich, moist soil. But *Carpinus betulus* also thrives in lesser environments.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, trees for climbing, shade trees, characteristic trees, woodland planting stock | **Topiary on stem:** beehive, block, cylinder, trapezium, pyramid, cone, roof-trained, level, pollard, multi-stem umbrella, multi-stem roof-trained, espalier, pleached | **Topiary:** beehive, globe, bowl, egg-shaped, cylinder, block, column, pyramid, cone, hedge, hedge element, archway, pleached, bonsai

### USE

**Location:** avenue, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, ecological zone, windbreak | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Landscape planting, shade-tolerant, Prairie planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 12 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade, shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** butterflies, birds, small mammals | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates heat

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** catkins, pendulous | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green, buds bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, doubly serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-brown | **Fruits:** winged, small, nut | **Fruit colour:** brown, green | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** deeply furrowed, spiral | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare, finely branched | **Root system:** shallow, moderately branched, central root