

Carpinus betulus ROCKHAMPTON RED

Rockhampton Red Hornbeam



Carpinus betulus 'ROCKHAMPTON RED' (hornbeam 'Rockhampton Red', synonym *Carpinus betulus* 'Lochglow') is a striking hornbeam cultivar which stands out thanks to its reliable red autumn colour. It shares the same growth rate and appearance as that of the common hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*. In 1995, a seedling of this hornbeam attracted the attention of Geoff Locke - between vast quantities of seedlings of the common hornbeam - at the Mount Pleasant Tree Nursery in Rockhampton, United Kingdom. This tree was brought out under licence in 2018. 'Rockhampton Red' develops a broadly egg-shaped crown approximately fifteen metres tall and ten metres wide.

In October this special cultivar puts on a truly spectacular display thanks to its unique quality: autumn colour in an array of beautiful hues - from bright orange to deep red. These colours are a match for those of the autumn colour of *Carpinus caroliniana* and can easily rival the autumnal foliage of *Liquidambar*, *Acer* and *Parrotia*. The colours remain visible until the end of November after which they change to brown and the foliage stays on the tree for most of the winter. In the spring the leaves emerge light green before changing to matt green in the summer. The bark and branches of 'Rockhampton Red' are both grey.

In terms of uses and applications, *Carpinus betulus* 'ROCKHAMPTON RED' is very straightforward. It is not particular about soil and even dry, wet, poor and chalky soils are not a problem. Wind too does not pose any kind of challenge and the tree anchors firmly. Humus-rich, loamy soils are its favourite. Like the species, this cultivar responds well to pruning, making it an excellent choice for pleached forms or hedging. 'Rockhampton Red', of course, also makes a very good avenue, park and garden tree. As a cultivar of the Western European native hornbeam, this tree can also be used in natural settings where it will be especially eye-catching in autumn.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, half-stem trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** espalier, pleached | **Topiary:** hedge, hedge element, espalier, pleached

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, small garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, windbreak | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting, shade-tolerant

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 10 - 15 m | **Width:** 6 - 10 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:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade, shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** birds | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, pendulous | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** matt green, buds pale green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, doubly serrate | **Autumn colour:** orange, orange-red, red, scarlet, dark red | **Fruits:** winged, small, nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** grey | **Twigs:** bare, finely branched | **Root system:** shallow, slightly branched, central root

