

Ostrya carpinifolia
hop-hornbeam, hophornbeam



Ostrya carpinifolia (Hop-hornbeam) naturally occurs in South Europe and in Asia Minor. The hop-hornbeam grows in the southernmost regions in moist environments with partial shade; in the northern regions, the tree acts more as a pioneer species and grows in light, warm and underdeveloped soil. *Ostrya carpinifolia* grows in thin, rocky soil and forms the undergrowth in the *Pinus nigra* forest, along with other species including *Carpinus orientalis*, *Fraxinus ornus* and *Quercus pubescens*. In its original distribution area, the hop-hornbeam grows up to 25 metres tall; in cultivation, it usually does not grow to be more than 18 metres tall with a wide, irregular wide egg-shaped to round crown up to 15 metres wide. *Ostrya carpinifolia* is a host plant for white truffles.

The hop-hornbeam blooms yellow-green in April with both striking male and short female catkins. In summer, its fruits are even more striking than its blooms: nuts in large, white-green, hop-like fruits and - turning brown - stay on the tree until deep into autumn. The egg-shaped, doubly serrate leaves are dark green, with a light green, hairy underside and turn yellow in autumn. Both the leaves and the tree shape of the hop-hornbeam are similar to those of *Carpinus*. At an early age, *Ostrya carpinifolia* has bark covered in lenticels; when it is older, the bark becomes rough and peels off.

Ostrya carpinifolia is mainly suitable for use in parks, central reservations and gardens. But the tree can also be used in wide streets and avenues, as it tolerates pavement and drought quite well. The species prefers warm microclimates and is thus absolutely suitable for use in highly urbanised areas. After planting, the hop-hornbeam initially grows a bit slowly. Once the tree's roots are a bit further settled, the pace at which it grows will pick up. The hop-hornbeam can handle shade very well, will grow in all types of permeable soil and though it prefers lime-rich soil, it will also tolerate acidic soil. *Ostrya carpinifolia* is a beautiful, low-maintenance tree that does not suffer much damage.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees | **Topiary on stem**: roof-trained, multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 14 - 18 m | **Width**: 8 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5B - 8A

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: April - April | **Leaf colour**: dark green, underside pale green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovate, ovoid, underside hairy, doubly serrate | **Autumn colour**: yellow | **Fruits**: striking, winged, large, nut | **Fruit colour**: brown-green | **Bark colour**: brown | **Bark**: peeling, furrowed, smooth | **Twig colour**: dark brown | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels | **Root system**: deep, extensive

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