



Photos: Arthur Haines

AMERICAN HORNBEAM

Carpinus caroliniana

Small, attractive tree or large shrub with attractive foliage and flowers, and very unique “muscled” trunk.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Catkins eaten by grouse, pheasants, and quail
- Nuts provide food for songbirds, squirrels, and foxes
- Rabbits and deer browse foliage and branches
- Beavers often use logs for their dams

Host to 72 caterpillar species, including: (common names) Walnut Sphinx; Red-spotted Admiral; Eastern Tiger Swallowtail; Funerary Dagger Moth; Blinded Sphinx; Luna Moth; Imperial Moth; Polyphemus Moth

Benefits for People

- Excellent specimen tree that is often multi-trunked and spreads out
- Offers beautiful color throughout the year - new leaves are red in early spring, and again turn red in the fall

Growing Information

Sunlight	Part shade
Soil Type	Moist, acidic
Height	15–30'
Width	20-30'
Flowering calendar	September

Natural Habitat

- Understory species in low hardwood forests

