


hornbeam *Betulaceae* *Carpinus caroliniana* Walter  symbol:
 CACA18

vTree

Leaf: Alternate, simple, elliptical to ovate, 3 to 5 inches long, pinnately veined, tip acuminate, doubly serrate margin; waxy, smooth green above, paler below.

Flower: Species is monoecious; males catkins yellow-green, 1 to 2 inches long, hanging; female catkins yellow-green and fuzzy appearing from new branch tips, 1/2 to 3/4 inch long, both appearing in mid to late spring.

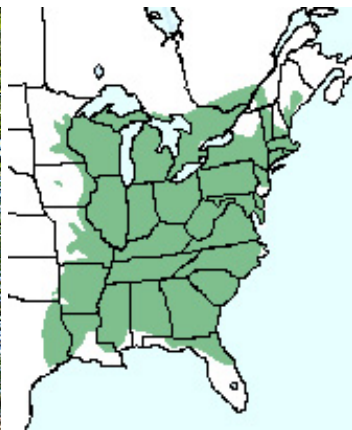
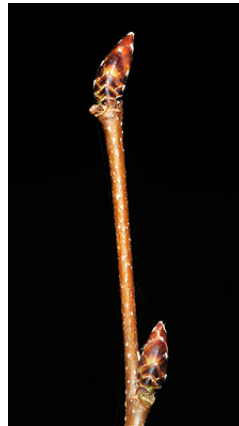
Fruit: Small ribbed nutlet carried on a 3-lobed, slightly folded leafy bract that is 1 inch long (somewhat resembles a maple leaf), bracts are clustered on a long (4 to 6 inches) hanging stalk; ripen in late summer and fall, disperse through the winter.

Twig: Slender, somewhat zigzag, brown to gray in color; buds are brown, angled, with a tan silky edge to each scale (making the buds appear lined), approximately 1/4 inch or less in length.

Bark: Thin, smooth, gray to bluish gray regardless of age or size; trunk is fluted heavily, resulting in a muscular appearance.

Form: A small, nearly shrubby tree reaching up to 25 feet tall with a rounded crown and a twisted trunk.

Looks like: [hophornbeam](#) - [hazel alder](#) - [Japanese hornbeam](#) - [European hornbeam](#)



Additional Range Information:
Carpinus caroliniana is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting hornbeam.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)
[Horticulture](#)

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