

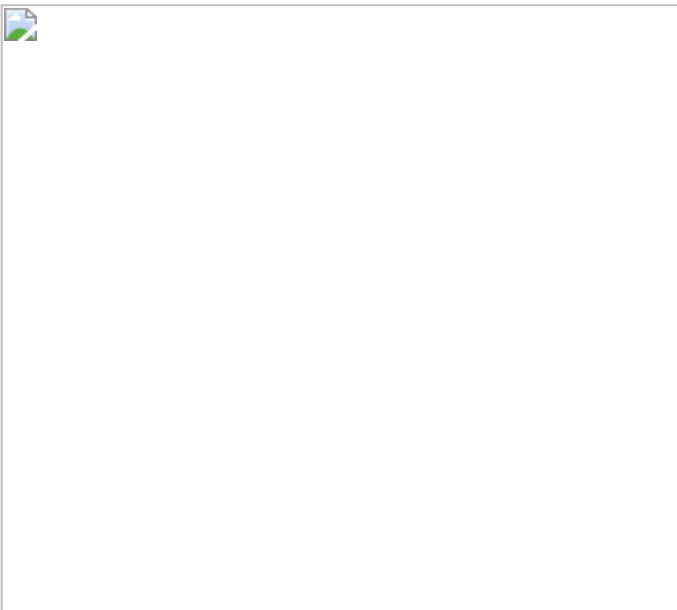
Hornbeam

Latin name : Carpinus | **Family :** Betulaceae **Genus :** Carpinus

RECOGNIZING HORNBEAM

Hornbeam is recognized by:

- Its fluted gray muscular trunks. Its gray bark, which is smooth while young.
- Its alternate deciduous leaves, with their serrated edge and deeply furrowed surface.
- Its fruits (achenes), which grow in clusters
- Its catkins that hang down in bunches



SITES FAVORED BY HORNBEAM

Temperatures

Average annual temperature of 10°C. The hornbeam likes light or semi-shade. It likes hot summers but does not appreciate a drought.

Rainfall

Average annual rainfall of at least 800 mm. Can still be affected by hydromorphy.

Soils

Hornbeam likes fresh, damp clayey and/or silty soils. It will thrive on chalk soils but does not do very well in acidic or hydromorphic soils. It is found up to 1,300 m altitude.

ROOT DEVELOPMENT OF THE HORNBEAM

- Shallow, running root development.
- Vulnerable to strong winds.

GROWTH AND PRODUCTION OF HORNBEAM

- Quite slow

HORNBEAM PLANTATION

Hornbeam is not planted as part of a single species plantation. There are very few pure hornbeam forests in France.

It is mainly found in coppices with standards, especially oak or beech (oak-hornbeam forests, or beech-hornbeam forests) due to its small size: it rarely exceeds 20 meters high. It is thus often found in mixed forests.

Otherwise, this species is very popular in gardens, where it is often planted as a tree tunnel or hedge. In this case, the plants are spaced 30 cm to 1 meter apart. Once the hornbeam hedge has developed, the new shoots simply need trimming to keep the hedge shape.

HORNBEAM WOOD

- Light white wood.
- Very hard, heavy wood (one of the hardest deciduous trees).
- Sawing can be difficult because of the wood's hardness.
- Marked veining.
- The best deciduous firewood.
- Used in joinery, for parquet flooring, decoration and toys.
- Trade name: Hornbeam

HORNBEAM HEALTH

Not affected by any major disease.

Economic view

Hornbeam is highly sought for firewood as it is an excellent source of fuel.

However, there is not a large market among sawmills as it is very hard and not used much in construction.

It is widely appreciated by both novice and expert gardeners and hornbeam hedges are common.