

American Hophornbeam

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Ostrya virginiana Tree Form

Height: 30' to 40' (30' at age 30)
Width: 20' to 30' (22' at age 30)
Hardiness Zone: 4 to 8

Crown: conical, becoming globose with age, medium-fine texture
Foliage: 2" to 5", green, yellow in the fall
Flowers: catkins, male catkins visible in winter
Fruit: nutlets hanging in hop-like bunches, greenish-white

Description: A graceful, small to medium size understory tree native to the eastern half of the United States, occurring on mesic upland sites and along streams. Attractive bark is gray brown and scaly on older trees. Fruit provides interesting contrast to the foliage. Growth rate is slow. The tree is sometimes grown in clump form.

Advantages: The species has performed well in urban plantings and narrow tree lawns. Seldom has pest problems. Tolerates shade, but also thrives in full sun.

Limitations: Does not tolerate severe urban stresses. Very sensitive to salt. Two-lined chestnut borer can destroy stressed trees. Few serious pest problems reported. Availability may be limited in some regions.

Site and Culture: Transplant B&B or container-grown plants in spring; recovers slowly. Prefers well drained, moist, slightly acid soil. Grows well in partial shade or full sun. Prune in winter or early spring.

Cultivars: No cultivars are commercially available. Genetic variation is likely because of its wide geographic range, so it would be prudent to obtain trees from a nursery near the planting site.

Notes:

