

American Hornbeam

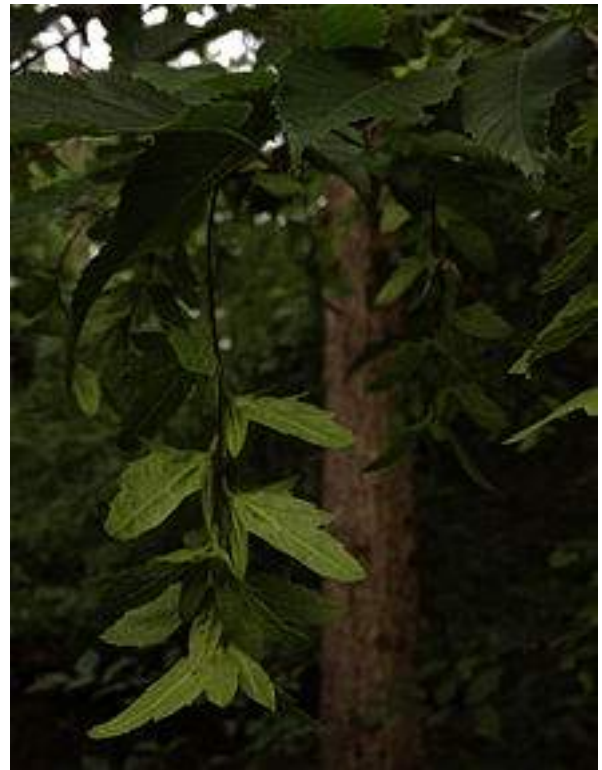
Carpinus caroliniana

American Hornbeam is also known as Ironwood because of its incredibly tough hard wood which is used to make tool handles. It is also called Musclewood. Some say the fluted trunks of these trees look like flexed muscles.

It is an understory tree; never growing very tall. Deep rich, moist soils are where it thrives. It is often found in woods and along the borders of streams and swamps.

The hanging fruit are distinctive winged nutlets in chain-like clusters. They turn from green to brown in Fall and have a papery texture.

This tree attracts songbirds, quail, squirrels and deer. Red-spotted Purple and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterflies use Hornbeam as a host plant.



This sign provided by Polk County Fresh Water Supply District #2