



Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus

A dense, fast-growing, native deciduous, boasting dramatic architectural foliage, tolerant of boggy, exposed sites and shade.

Description

A true 'country house classic', the Hornbeam offers a great solution to those seeking an attractive formal hedge in more demanding situations.

Appearance

Deeply furrowed and heavily toothed 7-12cm bright green, ovate leaves are joined in spring by clusters of large, greenish-yellow catkins. These develop into papery green winged nuts that ripen to brown. Stunning yellowy-orange autumnal foliage, later turning a coppery-grey, often clings to its branches well into winter.

Placement

Hornbeam excels in moist, heavy soils but will grow in virtually any, provided its roots aren't waterlogged. Suitable for exposed inland and coastal sites, although frost pockets are to be avoided. It performs equally well in full sun or shade.

Uses

Hornbeam, like Beech, benefits from a quick trim in late summer to aid leaf retention in winter which enhances its value as a barrier against wind, noise and pollution with the addition of providing privacy screening.



Hornbeam provides a habitat-rich environment not only for birds but also for the larvae of a number of moth species.



Striking architectural foliage for a contemporary setting.

Case Study

"We were looking for an established hedge circa 1.8m high to give some privacy to the new houses we have constructed on a multi-tiered development. Elveden did not disappoint, the Hornbeam hedge is everything we had hoped for – from initial enquiry to delivery and planting."

Paul Smith – Cre8 Building Solutions LTD



SOIL

Well-drained
Chalk, Clay,
Sand, Loam



SUNLIGHT

Full sun
Partial shade
Shade



GROWTH

Fast
30-60cm/yr
approximately



PRUNING

September
after growth



USES

Privacy screening
Pollution barrier
Windbreak



SUITABILITY

Containment
of livestock
and horses