

## **Carpinus betulus tree & hedging**

*Carpinus betulus*, commonly known as European hornbeam, is a deciduous tree that is often used for hedging and screening purposes. It is native to Europe and western Asia but has been widely planted in other parts of the world.

When used for hedging, *Carpinus betulus* is typically planted as a small to medium-sized tree and pruned to form a dense, formal hedge. The tree can grow up to 60 feet (18 meters) tall, but when used for hedging, it is usually kept much shorter, at around 4-5 feet (1.2-1.5 meters) tall.

The leaves of *Carpinus betulus* are oval, with serrated edges, and measure 2-5 inches (5-13 cm) in length. They are a bright green color in the spring and summer and turn yellow or orange in the fall. The tree produces small, inconspicuous flowers in the spring, which are followed by clusters of winged nutlets. The seeds of a Hornbeam allowed to grow into a tree – whether as part of a hedge or as a specimen plant – will feed larger birds including the great spotted woodpecker, rooks and even Mallards. Small mammals, too, will eat Hornbeam seeds

*Carpinus betulus* is a hardy tree that is tolerant of a wide range of soil types and growing conditions. It prefers full sun to partial shade and is often planted in rows to form a dense, formal hedge. The tree is valued for its attractive foliage, which provides year-round privacy and screening, as well as its resistance to pests and diseases.