

Carpinus

Carpinus, Hornbeam (*Betulaceae*)



betulus, Common Hornbeam

Origin: Europe, Caucasus, Iran. Grows spontaneously all over Italy but above all in areas where the Chestnut predominates. Deciduous tree often with a gnarled, twisted trunk and conical- round crown. Soft green, ovate, dentate leaves 4-10cm long with beautiful yellow colouring in autumn. The dry leaves remain on the tree until the end of winter. Flowers: before and at the same time as the leaves in hanging, pale yellow catkins. Winged fruit grouped together in spikes up to 15cm long. Grows well in all types of normally fertile, permeable, cool and also calcareous soil. Withstands even hard and repeated pruning and can be shaped into any form. Feathered trees are often used for medium and tall hedges

betulus "Fastigiata" (*C. betulus pyramidalis*), Pyramidal Hornbeam

Pyramidal form of *Carpinus betulus*. Grows naturally with ascending branches which start from the base and form a pyramidal outline without gaps. As it grows older it spreads out from the base. It can be trained into a tree with a bare trunk and crown which is at first pyramidal and then oval-round; in this form it is used for lining not very wide avenues. Leaves: the same as *C. betulus* but which fall in autumn. Has the same growing requirements as *C. betulus* and withstands even the most severe pruning, it can therefore be shaped into many forms.



Carpinus



betulus "Frans Fontaine"

Origin: Holland. Deciduous tree with elongated or ovoidal habit; branches can be trained from base, to grow close to trunk. Bright green, oval leaves, 8-10 cm long; in autumn, they turn a lovely yellow. Flowers: green catkins, April-May; male only, therefore no fruit. No particular needs regarding terrain, very wind-resistant.

betulus "Monumentalis" (C. betulus "Fastigiata Monument")

Columnar form which remains narrow, geometrical and compact without need of pruning even when adult because of the very dense branches. Suitable for small gardens, rock gardens, in container compositions, along narrow streets. Excellent for bonsai.



Carpinus



betulus "Pendula"

Origin: France. Weeping habit with branches which at first spread out and then hang down. Leaves: the same as *C. betulus* but fall in autumn. It does not flower or bear fruit. Growing requirements the same as *C. betulus*. Suitable for small gardens, rock gardens and troughs.