PLANT FACT SHEET

Carpinus caroliniana Walter

GENUS *Carpinus* **FAMILY** Betulaceae

COMMON NAMES American Hornbeam

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The small nut can be parched and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A very small deciduous tree. It grows up to 8 m tall. The trunk can be 25 cm across. The trunk is usually short and crooked. It loses its leaves during the year. The leaves are alternate and simple. They are arranged in 2 rows. They are 5-10 cm long. Leaves become larger along the shoot. They are bluish-green above and yellowish-green underneath. They turn red in autumn. The veins are straight and parallel. Each vein ends with a sharp tooth. The male and female flowers occur in separate clusters on the same tree. The fruit are a small and oval ribbed nut. It is 6-9 mm long. The fruit hang in clusters 10-15 cm long.

HABITAT

It is native to Mexico and North America. Temperate. It grows on deep, rich, moist soils. They are often in valley bottoms and along streams. They are very shade tolerant. It is found in moist forests and along streams between 1,300 to 1,800 m altitude in Central America. It suits hardiness zone 5-9. Hobart Botanical Gardens.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. They can also be grown by suckers or by layering.

NOTES

There are about 35-40 Carpinus species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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