PLANT FACT SHEET

Carpinus betulus L.

GENUS *Carpinus* **FAMILY** Betulaceae

COMMON NAMES Horse bean, Horsebeam, Witch hazel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Sap, Leaves, Flowers

The sap is used for a drink.
The young leaves are used as a snack.
The flowers are crushed and added to bread making.

DESCRIPTION

A tree that loses its leaves. It can grow 30 m high. It spreads 5 m across. The trunk is erect and stout. The bark is fluted and smooth and grey. The leaves are oval and taper to the tip. The leaves are 10 cm long and have a double set of teeth around the edge. There are hairs on the veins under the leaf. The male flowers are catkins. The female catkins hang down and are 14 cm long. The fruit are small nuts enclosed in a small cone.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It does well in shade. It needs moderate soil fertility. It is best in light, well-drained soil. It is resistant to drought and frost. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds, root suckers or by layering.

NOTES

There are about 35-40 Carpinus species.

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