

Ostrya virginiana

(American Hophornbeam, Eastern Hophornbeam)

Best distinguished by its hops-like brown fruits, strong slender trunk and deep green leaves, hop hornbeam is native across the forests of eastern North America where it is a common understory tree. It is slow-growing, deciduous and attains a conical or rounded crown at maturity. Its brown, vertically exfoliating bark is lightly grooved and moderately attractive. Grow ironwood in full sun to partial shade. It is tolerant of slightly acid and slightly alkaline soils that are rich and well-drained. It is sensitive to flooding as well as salt, so it is not a good tree for lowlands or street sides. Slow to establish and grow, it is best planted in suburban or rural landscapes where choice regional native trees are desired. Specimens become quite pretty when mature, are long-lived make excellent shade trees.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Pronunciation: OSS-tree-uh ver-jin-ee-AY-nuh
Plant Type: Tree
Origin: North America
Heat Zones: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Hardiness Zones: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Uses: Screen, Specimen, Container, Shade
Size/Shape
Growth Rate: Slow
Tree Shape: Pyramidal, Round, oval
Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical
Canopy Density: Medium
Canopy Texture: Fine
Height at Maturity: 8 to 15 m
Spread at Maturity: 5 to 8 meters, 8 to 10 meters
Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Oval

Leaf Margins: Serrate, Double Serrate

Leaf Textures: Glossy

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow, Orange, Brown

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: Yellow, White

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Nut

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 3 - 7

Fruit Colors: Green, Brown

Seasons: Spring

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: No

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Full, Part, Shade

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations: Seed

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Other Image



Bark Image