

White Hornbeam

Carpinus betulus

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Magnoliophyta
Class	Magnoliopsida
Order	Fagales
Family	Betulaceae
Genre	Carpinus

The hornbeam tree is widespread in Western Europe. Its name derives from the Celtic “carr”, wood e “pen”, head, wood that is suitable to make yokes for oxen. The hornbeam tree is a short-lived (150 years), medium height (15-20 m).it is a straight tree with extended foliage.



Tree Appearance



Leaves

Trunk: The bark is thin, smooth to the touch of gray colour. The wood is white-gray, hard and heavy, with intricate grain. The roots are collated and much branched-

Leaves: The leaves are alternate, simple, shortly petiolate, ovate-oblong, ribbed embossed with sharp apex and margin finely and doubly toothed.



Cortex



Male Flowers

Flowers: Flowers monoecious, gathered in catkins, the male ones are cylindrical (4-6 cm) and hanging; the female are shorter and they have red stigmas; It blooms in April and May. The infructescence (6-15 x 5-7 cm) is pendulous

Fruit: ovoid achene, protected by a large triloba bract, whose median lobe is longer than the side and contains a not winged seed



Infructescence



Fruit and bract