10,000 TREES INITIATIVE
TREE INFO CARD

American Hornbeam
(Carpinus caroliniana)

Get to know your tree:

The American hornbeam is a Michigan native species with small, doubly-toothed oval leaves. Leaf veins are prominent, lending a corrugated texture. Fall leaf color is typically yellow or orange-red. Flowers are greenish-yellow catkins. Fruits are hanging clusters of 3-lobed papery samaras that are distributed by the wind. Bark is smooth and bluish grey, with ridges lending a muscular appearance.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter hornbeam provides approximately $36.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO_2 levels by 9 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger hornbeams, visit www.treebenefits.com.

Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at most partial sun exposure (at most 4 hours of sun per day). Hornbeams grow to heights of 20-30 feet, with a spread of around 20 feet. This species prefers moist, rich soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

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