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Columnar European Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata'

Description: This shade trees casts a dense but narrow area of shade. It has a pyramidal shape when young, becoming more rounded at maturity. Mature size is 40' to 60' tall and 20' to 30' wide.

Leaves: 2.5" to 5" alternate, simple, sharply serrated; yellow to yellowish green fall color.

Flower and fruit: Male catkins followed by a small nut.

Bark: Smooth and gray.

Habitat: Hardy zones: 4-7

Growth rate: Slow to moderate

Culture: Plant in full sun to partial shade. Tolerates range of soil types but prefers moist, well-drained soil.

Fun Facts: "Fastigiata" or fastigiate means "pointed upright." Hornbeams are in the birch family, have dense close-grained wood traditionally used for carving wooden bowls, tool handles, flooring, ox yokes, and furniture. The Romans used hornbeam to make their chariots.

