

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale

***Musclewood--Carpinus caroliniana***

COMMON NAME: Musclewood, American hornbeam, Ironwood, Blue Beech.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: The Latin probably comes from "carpentum", meaning a Roman horse-drawn wagon with hard wooden wheels. Greek karpos means fruit. Horn +beam, first recorded in 1570, refers to hard wood.

FLOWER: Green, inconspicuous in early spring.

SIZE: 20-40 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Although slow growing it is easily grown, and has an attractive globular form. It has serrated elliptic-oval dark green leaves that turn orange, yellow or red in the fall.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: It prefers well drained moist organic rich soils, part to full shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern North America. It is a typical understory tree of Maple-Beech and Maple-Basswood woodlands.

SPECIAL FEATURES: It is used for an understory tree in shady locations. It tolerates clay soil and black walnut. It is an extremely hard wood. Its smooth bark resembles muscles. In the past it was used for tool handles and ox yokes.

SUGGESTED CARE: Low maintenance, medium water.