

FASTIGIATE EUROPEAN HORNBEAM

Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'

Hornbeams are close relatives to birches and alders. They have smooth gray bark which becomes furrowed with old age. They have loosely clustered, three-lobed, papery fruits. They are a medium tree, 35'-40' in height and 20'-30' in width, with a broad rounded crown. The leaves are large, broad, and finely-toothed. The leaf color is green in summer and yellow to reddish in the fall. Hornbeam wood is very hard, and is used for specialized purposes, but is too scarce to be of commercial importance.



The European hornbeams were the first trees planted in conjunction with the Arbor Day tree replacement program. The program was created in 1999 to remove and replace dead or diseased Norway Maples, London Planetrees, European Elms, and other trees along Market Street and throughout the cemetery. Eleven Hornbeams were planted on the east side of the gatehouse entrance along Market St. in 2000; and thirteen were planted in 2001 on the west side of the gatehouse entrance.

Salts and solutions used on Market Street during the winter months take a toll on the health of the trees, as does damages caused by passer-bys snapping off lower limbs. Two Hornbeams were planted in 2005 to replace 2 dead ones. Because of these reoccurring problems, some Hornbeams may have to be replaced periodically throughout the upcoming years.

Like soldiers marching in a line, these street sentries with their fall helmets of gold are magnificent to view any time of year. The brilliant red colors of the Pin oaks can be seen inside the stone wall.

