

Carpinus - Growing Guide

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Hornbeam

Hornbeams are a genus of trees to which quite a number of new species have been added in the last 20 or so years from new wild collections in China, Taiwan and Vietnam. We have been growing and trying out several of these new *Carpinus* species at Burncoose and Caerhays and these are now starting to find their way into our catalogue.

For years hornbeams meant just (to us) the common or native *Carpinus betulus* and its improved forms which we have offered; such as *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata'. Then came new grafted plants of the exceptional *Carpinus fangiana* with its enormous 'hop-like' flowers in profusion.



C. betulus 'Fastigiata'



C. betulus 'Fastigiata'



C. betulus 'Fastigiata'



C. betulus 'Fastigiata'



C. betulus 'Purpurea'



Carpinus polyneura



Carpinus rankanensis -
young tree

Carpinus rankanensis



C. rankanensis - 2nd
younger one



C. rankanensis - 2nd
younger one

All Carpinus species are proving to be totally hardy and will grow as freestanding or woodland trees in fairly well drained soil. Carpinus betulus can (with a lot of effort) be grown as a hedge like beech or, as at RHS Garden Rosemoor, as a well-manicured and twice a year trimmed formal hedge of 18-20ft in height. C. betulus seeds (and other species) can be sown in the autumn in a seedbed. Carpinus can also be propagated from new shoot cuttings that have hardened off but winter casualties (as with many deciduous trees) are normal. Seed are easier.

Carpinus japonica has proved to be a beautiful tree at Caerhays with corrugated leaves and prominent catkins. You can see pictures of our youngish plants below this article.





Carpinus fangiana



Carpinus henryana



C. henryana var. *simplicidentata*



Carpinus kawakami



Carpinus laxiflora



Carpinus nimpoli



Carpinus omeiensis



Carpinus orientalis



Carpinus orientalis



C. orientalis 'Perdice'



Carpinus 'Red Hill'



Carpinus shensiensis



Carpinus tschonoskii



Carpinus tschonoskii



Carpinus tschonoskii