

MEAGAN CALSON
BOT 155

AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM *OSTRYA VIRGINIANA*



THE AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM, ALSO KNOWN AS THE IRONWOOD OR EASTERN HOPHORNBEAM, IS LOCATED THROUGHOUT OHIO AS WELL AS ALONG THE EASTERN COAST OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTHERNMOST PART OF CANADA. ITS NAME ORIGINATES FROM ITS FRUIT RESEMBLING HOPS THAT ARE USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF BEER ALONG WITH 'HORNBEAM' ALLUDING TO A EUROPEAN TREE THAT WAS USED TO MAKE BLOWS PULLED BY OXEN (1).

HEIGHT: 30 TO 40 FEET

SPREAD: 25 TO 30 FEET

GROWTH RATE: SLOW

LEAF TYPE: SIMPLE

LEAF ARRANGEMENT: ALTERNATE

LEAF SHAPE: ELLIPTICAL, OVATE

LEAF MARGINS: DOUBLY SERRATED

LEAF VENATION: PINNATE

LEAF SURFACE: THIN BUT TEXTURALLY TOUGH,
PROMINENT VEINS

BUD ARRANGEMENT: NO TERMINAL BUDS BUT

LATERAL BUDS ARE ALTERNATE

BUD COLOR: CHARCOAL

FLOWER COLOR: BROWN, GREEN

FRUIT SHAPE: ELONGATED

FRUIT LENGTH: 1 TO 3 INCHES

BARK: THIN VERTICAL STRIPS, GREY-RED-BROWN

(1,2,3)



THE ROOT SYSTEM OF AN AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM IS LESS THAN ITS HEIGHT WHICH MAKES IT IDEAL FOR BEING PLANTED ON BOULEVARDS (1). SIMILARLY, IT PREFERENCES MOIST, FERTILE SOIL BUT IS HIGHLY ADAPTABLE TO DRY, POOR, ALKALINE SOILS. IT GROWS MOST SUCCESSFULLY IN PARTIAL TO FULL SUN BUT IS ALSO ABLE TO ADAPT TO PARTIAL SHADE (3).

IN THE WINTER, THE AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM HAS PERSISTENT FRUITS ALONG WITH WINTER FLOWERS (2). FURTHERMORE, IT PROVIDES WINTER FOOD FOR ANIMALS SUCH AS PHEASANTS, RABBITS, DEER, AND SQUIRRELS. ITS WOOD IS ALSO USED FOR POSTS, TOOL HANDLES, AND MALLETS (1).

NO PROMINENT DISEASES OR PESTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TREE. DURING DRY TIMES, LATE SCORCH SOMETIMES APPEARS (3). RIGIDITY OF FERTILIZATION AND WATERING CAN PREVENT ANY POTENTIAL RISKS (2).

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION:
IN WHAT REGION IS THE AMERICAN HOPHORNBEAM MOST COMMON?

- a. WEST COAST
- b. SOUTHWEST
- c. PACIFIC NORTHWEST
- d. EAST COAST

- 1. "Manual of American Field Botany." Department of Agriculture, North Dakota State University. September 9, 2009. <<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/ndsu/ndsu/fieldbot/01-3-81.pdf>>
- 2. "Ostrya virginiana American Hophornbeam." October 1994. Department of Agriculture, Forestry Service. September 8, 2009. <<http://herc.hull.edu/oaas/OSTVIRA.pdf>>
- 3. "American Hophornbeam." ODNR Division of Forestry. September 8, 2009. <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/fs/odnr/other/ehophorn_wacts/d/5377/Defeat.aspx>