



## Ironwood, Eastern Hop Hornbeam

*Ostrya virginiana*

Fabaceae

### Description

The wood of this tree is one of the toughest woods of North America, hence the name Ironwood. It's used for making tool handles, mallets, and fence posts. Its other nickname, Eastern Hop Hornbeam, is due to the fact that its fruits are very similar to that of the hops plant. The fruit consists of small papery sacks that contain tiny, flattened nuts. This allows the seeds to be more easily dispersed by the wind.

### General Information

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|--|--|---|
| <b>Zone:</b> 3-9                       | <b>Soil Texture:</b> Clay, Loam, Sand    | <b>Fall Color:</b> Gold, Yellow             |
| <b>Height:</b> 25-40'                  | <b>Soil pH:</b> Acidic-Alkaline          | <b>Bloom Color:</b> Yellow, Green, Brown    |
| <b>Width:</b> 20-30'                   | <b>Exposure:</b> Full Sun, Part Shade    | <b>Bloom Time:</b> Spring                   |
| <b>Habit:</b> Oval, Pyramidal, Rounded | <b>Water Needs:</b> Dry, Average         | <b>Fragrance:</b> None                      |
| <b>Growth Rate:</b> 12" per year       | <b>Soil Drainage:</b> Well-Drained       | <b>Fruit Color:</b> Green                   |
|  | <b>Other Attributes:</b> Salt Intolerant | <b>Fruiting Time:</b> July, August          |
|  |  | <b>Fruit Flavor:</b> Inedible               |
|  |  | <b>Attracts:</b> Birds, Small Mammals, Deer |

#### Resources:

[Plants A to Z: Find Plant Names by Letter \(thespruce.com\)](http://thespruce.com)  
[Find a Plant | NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](http://ncsu.edu)  
[Trees and Plants | The Morton Arboretum](http://mortonarboretum.org)  
[WSU PNW Plants](http://wsu.edu)

[The Tree Guide at arborday.org](http://arborday.org)  
[Woody Plants Catalog | The UFOR Nursery & Lab \(um.edu\)](http://um.edu)  
[Plant Finder \(missouribotanicalgarden.org\)](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org)  
[N.D. Tree Handbook \(nds.edu\)](http://nds.edu)