



## hop hornbeam

*Ostrya virginiana*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta  
Class:  
Order:  
Family:

### FEATURES

The deciduous hop hornbeam tree may grow to a height of 35 feet and a diameter of one foot. Its bark is brown and scaly. The simple leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Each double-toothed leaf is elliptical to ovate and up to five inches long. The green leaf is smooth on the upper surface and paler and slightly hairy on the lower surface. The male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers are separate but located on the same tree. The fruit is a nutlet enclosed by an inflated bladder. Nutlets are crowded together in a cluster that gives the appearance of "hops."

### BEHAVIORS

The hop hornbeam grows statewide in Illinois in upland woods, rocky slopes and along streams. This tree flowers in April and May. It is also known as ironwood and eastern hop hornbeam. Its hard, durable wood is used for making tool handles.

### HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.