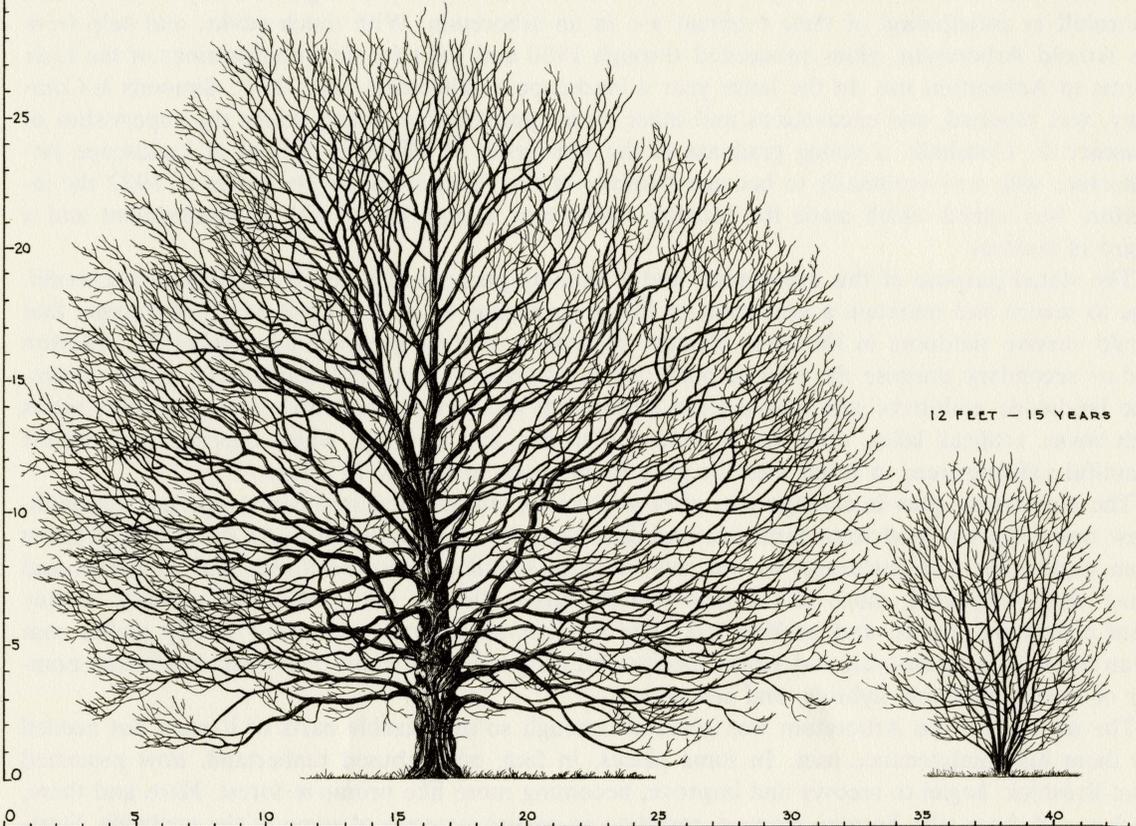


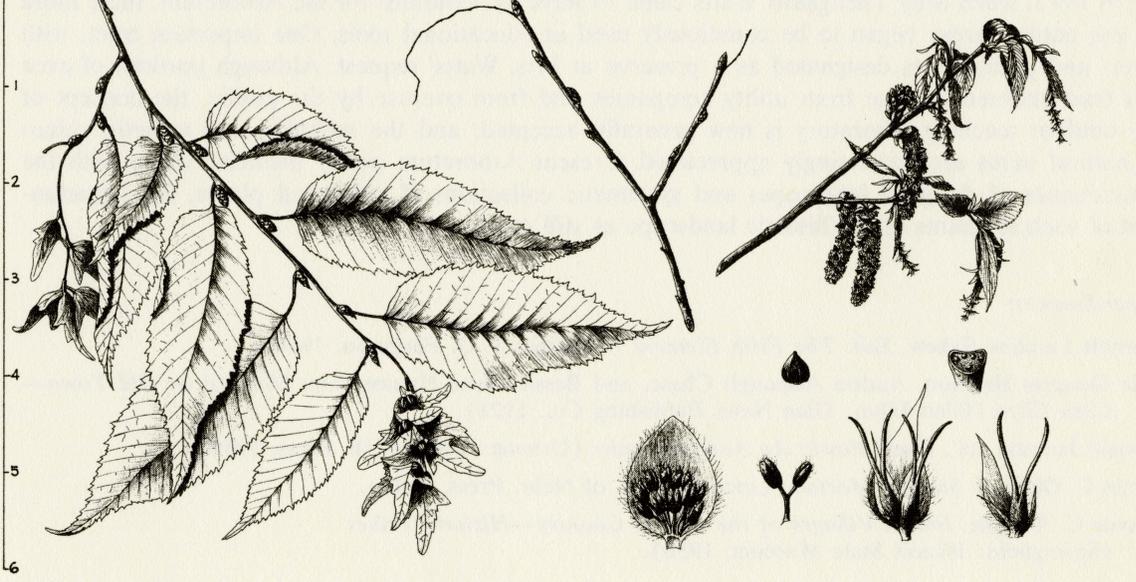
30 FEET

30 FEET - 50 YEARS



12 FEET - 15 YEARS

0 INCHES



Blue Beech, *Carpinus caroliniana*

Birch Family (*Betulaceae*)

Natural distribution: New England to Minnesota, south to Texas and Florida.

Natural habitat: an understory tree of rich, usually moist, woodlands.

Height: 20 to 30 feet; rarely to 40 feet.

Shape: rounded when growing in the open without other trees planted too closely; narrower under forest conditions. May reach a spread of 15 to 20 feet.

Texture: foliage texture medium.

Bark: gray, smooth, and firm; trunk and older branches display some striation which gives them a sinewy or "muscular" appearance.

Twigs: slender and round; pale green when young, becoming orange-brown and lustrous.

Buds: ovoid, pointed, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, with chestnut-brown scales.

Foliage: leaves oblong to narrowly ovate, usually 2 to 4 inches long, with somewhat long-pointed tips; sharply toothed, with straight impressed veins; leafstalks about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long. Notable autumn color, an attractive yellow-orange, tending to be more yellow when shaded by large trees.

Density of its shade: medium to dense.

Flowers: male catkins approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long when fully grown, with green and red scales; female catkins $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, with hairy green scales.

Fruit: a nutlet $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long, located at the base of an enlarged flat leafy bract which aids wind dissemination of the fruit.

Root system: spreading and somewhat shallow.

Exposure: Although it grows in shade in its natural habitat, it is tolerant of sun.

Moisture requirements: average.

Soil: rich.

Wind resistance: good.

Planting suggestions: spring or fall.

Growth rate: slow.

Hardiness: hardy to and including Zone 2.*

Problems: essentially none.

Availability: not commonly available.

Area of adaptability: suburban, rural.

Uses: specimen tree; foundation and border plantings; densely shaded sites.

Location in the Arboretum: immediately east of the Arboretum Center building; in the meadow east of the Arboretum greenhouse; along Oakwood Loop Return north of the large Scotch pine planting; along the Joy Path south of Thornhill.

*Hardiness Zone based on Plant Hardiness Zone Map prepared jointly by the U. S. National Arboretum in cooperation with the American Horticultural Society. U.S.D.A. Misc. Pub. #814, May, 1960.