

CARPINUS BETULUS L.

“PYRAMIDALIS”



Fam. Betulaceae

DESCRIPTION

It is a vigorous tree with a conical shape, globular at the base, compact, with erect branches along the trunk and with dense and vivid green foliage. It can grow up to 10 m high and have a diameter of 4 m.

HABITAT

Native to Central Europe and the Caucasus.

DISTRIBUTION

It is spread over a wide area, stretching from central Europe to the Caucasus, where it is widespread in all temperate regions up to 1200 metres above sea level. This variety has a pyramidal habit and is widely used in urban landscaping (hedges and trees).

FLOWERS

Both male and female flowers grow on the same plant; they are inconspicuous and green; they bloom between April and May, together with the leaves. They produce seeds covered by three-lobed bracts; they grow in tufts.

LEAVES

Oval, pointed, with a double jagged margin, the leaves take on a bright yellow colour toning to orange in autumn; they normally stay on the plant even when dry.

FRUITS

The fruits are hard achenes, initially greenish, later turning brown. They are dispersed by the wind.

BARK

The bark is smooth in young specimens; it turns more furrowed and ashen when the tree is fully grown.

INTERESTING FACTS

It is used in phytotherapy and gemmotherapy to treat respiratory tract diseases (it has anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic and healing properties) and to stimulate platelet production. The bud macerate is a remedy used to treat bleeding and liver failure (generally associated with thrombocytopenia). It is also used to lower cholesterol level.

ROOTS

Very deep root system with robust lateral and branched roots.

