## **Hello Trees Resource Sheet**

# What to look for outdoors in Summer



## Tree identification: hornbeam

Let's go on a hornbeam tree hunt.



Remember, there are 6 clues to tree identification: far too many for all at once. We group the clues into 3s: **buds**, **branching** and **bark** (note the 'b' sound); and **leaf**, **flower** and **fruit** (note the 'f' sound).

**Bud**: A <u>H</u>ornbeam bud <u>h</u>ugs the stem: small and pointed, it curves in, tight against the stem. **Branching:** <u>H</u>ornbeam branching is an upside-down <u>h</u>eart-shape. Base branches curve gently out and up, top branches curve in to the top of the tree.

Swing your arm through the air making a <u>h</u>ornbeam upside-down <u>h</u>eart shape. **Bark:** <u>H</u>ornbeam bark is <u>h</u>orn-smooth with <u>h</u>ighlights. Stretch lines snake up the smooth grey bark of the trunk and branches.

**Flower**: The <u>H</u>ornbeam female flower is <u>h</u>ardly noticeable: a few small pale leaf-like dangle. The <u>Hornbeam</u> male flowers are masses of <u>or</u>dinary dangling catkins.

**Leaf**: The H<u>orn</u>beam leaf has s<u>awn</u>-through edges. It is matt, narrow-ovoid, has a long pointed curved tip, crinkle-chip grooves – and markedly serrated edges,

Fruit: Hornbeam fruit is a heap of seeds, each in a trefoil bract.

Now we have all the clues, we have all we need to go on a hornbeam hunt.

What words will *you* use to describe your hornbeam's **bud**, **branching** and **bark**, and **flower**, **leaf** and **fruit**?

Here are two photos showing the **branching** of a hornbeam tree near where I live:







Hornbeam tree in Summer covered in leaves and fruit



Upside-down heart-shape?

Hmm! What are your words to describe the shape of your hornbeam branching?

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Clearly seen hornbeam buds in Winter

Is your hornbeam **bark** 'Horn-smooth'? With 'Highlights'? By "highlights' I mean the streaks of stretch marks snaking up the bark. See them?



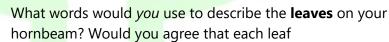
Hornbeam female and male **flowers** looked like this.



Now in Summer, flowers are long gone. They have turned into **fruits**. Here is a heap of hornbeam fruits in Summer.



In Autumn, they will dry out and drop, spinning from the tree. Here is what each of them will look like then. For more, see <a href="Hornbeam spinners">Hornbeam spinners</a>.



- is dark green,
  - is matt.
  - is much smaller than the hand.
  - is egg-shaped ('ovoid'),
  - has a long curved pointed tip,
  - · markedly serrated edge,
  - has a short petiole?
  - Is alternate on either side of the shoot.

Hornbeam leaves next to a 5-year-old's hand

Anything else?



For much more about trees and how to identify them, and more to see and do outdoors and indoors see Hello Trees website <a href="www.hellotrees.co.uk">www.hellotrees.co.uk</a>.

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