

Carpinus caroliniana Firespire - American Hornbeam

Zone: 3b

Height: 20'

Width: 10'

Exposure: Full sun to part shade
Form and Crown: Narrowly upright
Growth Rate: Slow
Soils: Sandy loam to clay loam
PH: Neutral to alkaline
Drainage: Fair to well drained
Drought: Will tolerate occasional dry periods
Salt: Sensitive
Breakage: Little or no breakage
Insect Pests: For the most part, pest free
Disease: Fairly disease free



Mike Yanny of Johnson Nursery in Monomonee Falls, WI developed a strain of vigorous *Carpinus caroliniana*. During his work hybridizing Musclewood, he noticed a couple of plants that were not the normal form. One of these he named 'Firespire'[™] Musclewood because of its upright form and great orange/red fall color. Musclewood has many great characteristics: hardiness, pest and insect resistance, lovely bark and limbs, alkaline soil tolerance, 2" to 4" flowers of pendulous leafy green bracts, and superb fall color. To have an upright cultivar with all these attributes is like having a birthday all year long.

Photos: Mike Yanny