

**Blue Beech**  
Carpinus Caroliniana



**Description:** small tree to 30 feet tall, one-foot diameter with irregular, rounded Crown usually in Forest understory, bark smooth, blue-grey trunk ridged appearing muscular. Fruits are nutlets with attached leafy bracts. Leaves alternate, thin, doubly toothed

**Leaves:** alternate on the twig, simple, born on slender, hairy stem less than 1/2 in. Blades thin, oval to 4 in long, half as wide, pointed tip finally double tooth blue-green and smooth above, pale yellow-green below with hair tufts at vein angles. Turn yellow in fall

**Bark:** thin, Smooth, Dark bluish-gray, ridged, appearing muscular hence the common name of musclewood. Trunks often mottled with lighter or darker patches

**Flowers:** unisexual flowers born separately on the same tree. Male flowers and drooping clusters to 1 and 1/2 in Long female and hairy clusters to half-inch at branch tips

**Fruits:** clusters of small to 1/3 in nutlets, each with an attached 3 lobed, leafy bract

**Habitat/Range:** moist woods and stream bottoms, usually in the shade of taller trees; found throughout Indiana