

## Hornbeam

(*Carpinus spp.*) — European Hornbeam, American Hornbeam, Columnar Hornbeam

Hornbeams are elegant, finely textured trees known for their **dense foliage**, **muscular smooth bark**, and excellent performance as **street or yard trees**. In Colorado, they are relatively **resilient** but may experience **leaf spot**, **anthracnose**, **aphids**, **scale**, and **occasional cankers**. They prefer **well-drained soil**, moderate irrigation, and protection from extreme heat.



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### Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Leaf spot (fungal)	Fungus	Spring–Summer	
Anthracnose	Fungus	Spring–Summer	
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Scale insects	Insect	Spring crawlers; visible all year	 
Canker diseases (rare)	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Environmental scorch / drought stress	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 
Winter injury (young trees)	Weather	Winter–Spring	 

#### Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
Leaf Spot (Common but Usually Minor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown/black circular spots</li> <li>• Early leaf drop in wet years</li> <li>• Lower canopy thins first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rake/remove leaves</li> <li>• Improve airflow</li> <li>• Fungicide rarely needed</li> </ul>
Anthracnose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blighted new leaves</li> <li>• Browning along leaf veins</li> <li>• Early defoliation in cool, wet springs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove fallen leaves</li> <li>• Increase airflow via light thinning</li> <li>• Usually cosmetic</li> </ul>
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sticky honeydew</li> <li>• Sooty mold</li> <li>• Leaf curling or distortion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hose off foliage</li> <li>• Beneficial insects help naturally</li> <li>• Systemics only for severe infestations</li> </ul>

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
<b>Scale</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard bumps on twigs</li> <li>• Honeydew, black mold</li> <li>• Stunted growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dormant oil in winter</li> <li>• Treat crawler stage in late spring</li> <li>• Prune heavily infested stems</li> </ul>
<b>Canker Diseases (Uncommon)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunken, dead bark patches</li> <li>• Dieback on stressed trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune out infected limbs (late winter)</li> <li>• Sanitize tools</li> <li>• Reduce drought stress—no chemical cure</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Stress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaf scorch (brown tips/edges)</li> <li>• Summer yellowing</li> <li>• Reduced growth in compacted soil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep water during heat waves</li> <li>• Mulch 2–3"</li> <li>• Avoid reflected heat from buildings or pavement</li> </ul>
<b>Winter Injury</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dieback on branch tips</li> <li>• Bark cracking on young trees</li> <li>• Delayed leaf-out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap trunks first 2–3 winters</li> <li>• Avoid late-season fertilization</li> </ul>

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### When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

#### ● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Progressive dieback of branches
- Heavy scale accompanied by sooty mold
- Severe defoliation by midsummer
- Repeated scorch despite irrigation
- Large cankers appearing after drought or freeze injury
- Stunted, sparse canopy over several years

These signs indicate **stress or secondary disease** requiring evaluation.

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● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Minor leaf spotting or anthracnose
- Light honeydew from aphids
- Occasional early fall color during drought
- Slight tip scorch on hot, windy days
- Natural shaping and density changes in younger trees

Hornbeam is generally **well-adapted to Colorado landscapes**, especially with consistent watering and good soil structure.