

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

American Beech

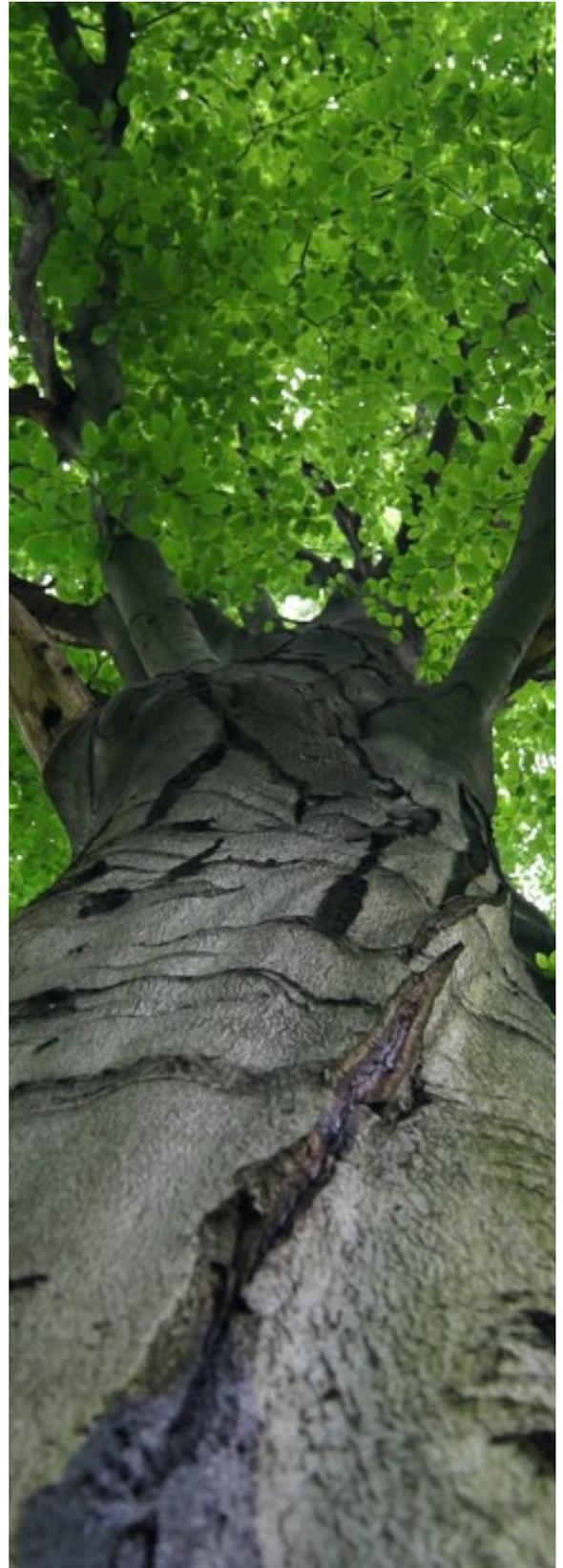
(Fagus grandifolia)

Get to know your tree:

The American beech is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, toothed, oblong leaves with pointed tips and parallel veins. Fall leaf color is typically a pale or golden yellow. Twigs have a distinct zig-zag pattern. Flowers are small, green, and hang in inconspicuous balls. Fruits are 1-3 small nuts contained in a 4-part husk with hooked prickles. Bark is smooth and grey, often with darker grey “eyes” or knots. Leaves often persist into winter.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter American beech provides approximately \$42.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 34 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger American beeches, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

Beech trees are highly phototropic, meaning they have a strong tendency to grow towards the most direct source of light, often resulting in angled trunks.

Beech nuts were one of the primary food sources of the passenger pigeon; logging of beech trees is thought to have contributed to the extinction of this bird species.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Beeches grow to heights of 50-80 feet, with a spread of around 40 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is not tolerant of drought, and will require frequent watering. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees