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Tree of the Year 2003 *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine'

'Frans Fontaine', a cultivar of the *Carpinus betulus*, was selected as the 'Tree of the Year 2003'! A title that suits this Hornbeam right down to the ground in view of its perky foliage. The leaves of this tree have sharply serrated edges and tapered tops. In the summer, the leaves are a vibrant green, changing to yellow/gold in the autumn. This is what gives streets a warm and inviting appearance during these chilly months.

This cultivar was first cultivated by the Parks and Public Gardens Department in 1983. The tree was given the same name as a member of the staff, Frans Fontaine. This tree is often cultivated as a standard tree, but there are also trees with branches that grow from ground level. We have both variants in our range.

The Frans Fontaine is the narrowest cultivar of the *Carpinus betulus*. A 10-metre high tree has a diameter of just 3 metres. The tree demands very little of the soil and root growth is fairly superficial. Nevertheless, they are very wind-resistant. All in all, the 'Frans Fontaine' is an exceptionally useful avenue and street tree, which we have used frequently in projects both in the Netherlands and abroad.

We can supply many other interesting cultivars in the *Carpinus* genus, including:

- *Carpinus betulus*
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Pendula'
- *Carpinus japonica*
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Columnaris'
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Purpurea'
- *Carpinus tschonoskii*
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata'
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Quercifolia'
- *Carpinus turczaninowii*



roof shape



pleached shape



obelisk shape