



Fagus grandifolia Ehrh
American beech

Family: *Fagaceae*. (USDA 2011)

Blooming season:

Mid spring (USDA 2011)

Plant:

Perennial, tree, mature height is 80 feet. (USDA 2011)

Leaves:

Green, medium leaf texture that usually grows about 2 to 6 inches in length. The shape of the leaf is oblong, with protruding teeth along the edges. (USDA 2011)

Flower:

One flower contains both male and female sexes. The male portion is the one inch spikes with rounded heads and the female portion is the shorter spikes. The color of the flower is yellow and contains 4 to 8 sepals. (Seiberling, 2006)



Fruit:

A brown reddish nut.

Geographic range:

State: Throughout lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

Regional: Beach trees have been seen as far north as Quebec Canada, to as far south as Florida, from as far west as Utah to east as Washington D.C. (USDA 2011)



Fagus grandifolia Ehrh
American beech

2

Habitat:

Local: Usually near sources of water such as a lake or a stream.

Regional: Stream edges, Lake coastlines, and areas where the soil has a high humus content. (Tubbs)

Common local companions:

Sugar maple, red maple, and oaks.

Uses:

Great for building furniture such as tables, cabinets, benches, stools, and tables.
(Davey 2001)

Why is it called that?

The word *Fagus* is Greek meaning “to eat” in reference to the edible beech nuts.

The species name *grandifolia* is Latin for “large leaves”.

Prepared by: Andrew Carson, June 2011