

Fagus grandifolia

American beech



Sources:

Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum.
Featured Species. For more information visit
website.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of
Agriculture.

NC State. *North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*.

The Beech Family (Fagaceae)

This tree has deciduous, alternate leaves; smooth, light gray bark; retains its dead, copper-colored leaves through most of the winter; and is shade and drought tolerant.

Habitat: It needs moist to wet lowland sites; preferring loamy or clay soils found across eastern North America.

Interesting Facts: This tree has elongated, dark brown buds that resemble cigars on the tips of the twigs.

Fruit: Its fruit is pointed, bur-like husk containing 1-3 nuts; found September-November.

Flower: Its flower has clustered green flowers that bloom in spring.

Wildlife value: This tree's fruit is consumed by many animals, including birds, foxes, raccoons, and squirrels.