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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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beech  (bēch)

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n.

1.

a. Any of various deciduous trees of the genus *Fagus* having smooth gray bark, alternate simple leaves, and three-sided nuts enclosed in prickly burs, including *F. sylvatica* of Europe and its many cultivated forms, and *F. grandifolia* of eastern North America.

b. The wood of any of these trees, used for flooring, containers, plywood, and tool handles.

2. See [southern beech](#).

[Middle English *beche*, from Old English *bēce*; see **bhāgo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

beech

American beech

Fagus grandifolia

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