



Hazelnut

Description:

The Hazels are a group of deciduous large shrubs to large trees that are best known for their edible nuts. They are also fantastic windbreak and living fence plants – they were the traditional boundary markers in England.

They provide pollen, food, and shelter for wildlife, and their wood has a large number of uses. These are great plants to blur the boundary from wild to garden.

Primary Uses:

Edible nuts – raw, dried, or cooked;
the more developed varieties/hybrids have a better flavor
Oil can be pressed/expelled from the nuts
Dried nuts can be ground into flour

Secondary Uses:

General insect pollen plant

Nut is a wildlife food of mammals and birds

Shrub forms provide shelter for wildlife

Windbreak

Edible hedge plant

Most species can be coppiced (every 6-15+ years)

Wood can be used for stakes, rods, thatching, fences, tools, handles, firewood, charcoal, etc.

Yield: 11-25 lbs (5-11 kg) depending on the size of the plant

Harvesting: Late Summer through early Autumn (late August – October). Nuts are either harvested from the ground or with nets while the tree is shaken.

Storage: Dried nuts will store for many years

Plant Type: Medium to large-sized Shrubs; Medium to very large-sized Trees

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Forest Garden Use: Canopy Layer, Sub-Canopy (Understory) Layer, Shrub Layer

Cultivars/Varieties: Many species and varieties available.

Pollination: Many of the hybrids and improved varieties are self-fertile, but the undeveloped species require cross-pollination from at least one other variety/cultivar. All varieties will benefit (i.e. produce more nuts) when allowed to cross-pollinate. Note that many *Corylus* species will cross-pollinate with other varieties and species. Check with your supplier for more specific information since there are so many species and varieties and hybrids. Pollinated by wind.

Flowering: Early Spring through Summer

Life Span:

Years to Begin Bearing: 3-4 years

Years of Useful Life: 40-50 years, but likely much more for the larger tree species; also considering the suckering nature of the shrub species, new shoots will develop into plants to replace older plants thereby making the thicket's lifespan indefinite.

GROWING CONDITIONS FOR THIS PLANT

Light: Prefers full sun

Shade: Tolerates deep shade, but nut production is reduced proportionate to light reduction

Moisture: Medium soil moisture preferred

pH: most species prefer fairly neutral to alkaline soil (6.1 - 7.5)