

# European Hazelnut



## *Corylus avellana*

- **Use:** Strong shrub that grows to multi-stemmed tree with densely branching, round crown. The brown young twigs are slightly hairy, the older bark starts to peel after some years. Hazel's role as a nut producing tree does give it a dual landscape role, in pleached allées and the nutteries which can be features of gardens as formal as Sissinghurst Castle (UK), and within which the hazel trees can be underplanted with shade-tolerant herbaceous ornamentals.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun /partial shade, Prefers well-draining soil and appreciates slow release fertilizer. Water when top 3 in of soil is dry. The root system is susceptible to suffocation. Can be used in any soil as long as it is adequately airy and drained. Would prefer for the soil to be limed for best growth.
- **Growth:** Growing up to 50' tall over many decades.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-8; Small Tree
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The matt green leaves are also hairy, making them feel a little rough. In autumn they turn into brownish yellow.
- **Flowers:** The graceful, male catkins are already visible before winter, but open around late February. The small, red, female flowers grow from the leaf buds and are inconspicuous. The fruits ripen around September. The hazelnuts are partly enclosed by two carpels. The nuts contain many vegetable fats and proteins and are therefore a healthy delicacy.

The straight, flexible young poles lend themselves for basketry, hurdle-making, the manufacture of thatching spars, the stakes and binders for laid hedges, and the wattles used in traditional house building in many parts of Europe. This, combined with the tasty nuts, made hazel one of the most useful of wild plants, a status reflected in the tree's prominence in Celtic mythology. Hazel produces an excellent firewood, burning with a faint toffee smell.

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