

Planting Guide

American Hazelnut

Corylus americana Walt.

Plant symbol = COAM

Contributed by: USDA, NRCS, Plant Materials Program

Description

American hazelnut is a shrub or very small tree (3 - 8 feet) probably native to every county in Missouri. It commonly occurs in dry or moist thickets, woodland, and borders of woodland, in valleys and upland. It ranges from Maine to Saskatchewan, south to Georgia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Leaves are borne simply on bristly stalks, the bristles somewhat granular. Flowers are separate with male and female flowers on the same tree. Male catkins droop and form the season before opening. Female flowers are enclosed in a scaly bud. They have red stigmas, which protrude at the tip of the bud. The fruit is a globe shape nut enclosed in a large, leaf-like covering. This species flowers March - May with fruit ripening July - September.

Source

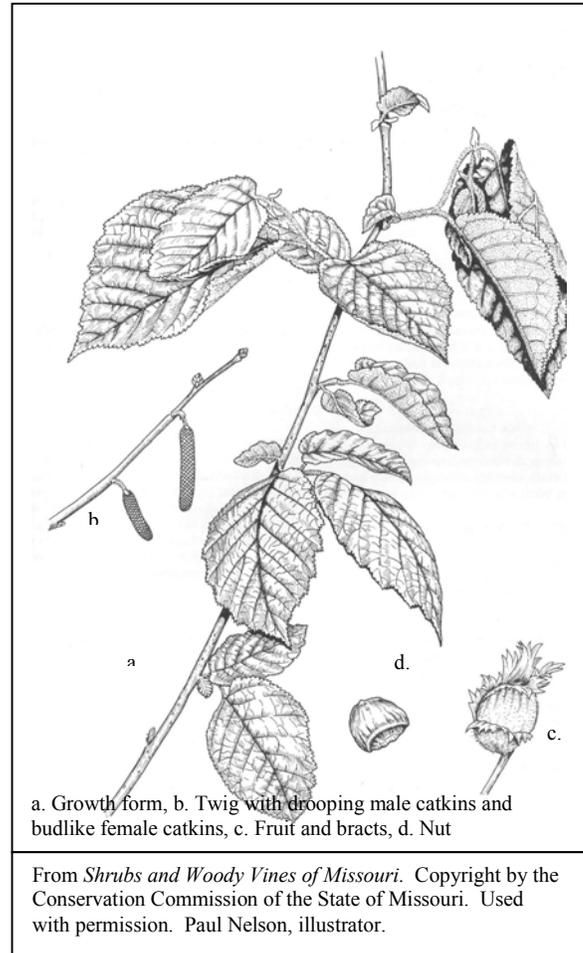
The following is a breakdown of the locations where selections of American hazelnut were made:

Accession Number

9057188
9057168
9057169
9068528
9068573

Location of Collection

Coles County, Illinois
Iroquois County, Illinois
Iroquois County, Illinois
Coles County, Illinois
Livingston County, Missouri



Uses

American hazelnut is an excellent species for wildlife food and habitat, windbreak plantings, agro-forestry and landscape and beautification.

Adaptation

American hazelnut is very winter hardy and has a broad climatic adaptation. It can be found occurring in moist thickets, woodlands, and border of woodland, in valleys and upland. Hazelnut ranges from Maine to Saskatchewan, south to Georgia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. It occurs on prairies and loess hill prairies, and once formed large thickets in savannas that have largely disappeared.

Establishment

Plants may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. Soaking roots in water an hour or so just prior to planting usually increases survival. If planted in rows where equipment can be used, allow enough room to mow or cultivate for weed control. According to the 'Illinois Windbreak Manual', the matured height of hazelnut is usually three to eight feet, but may reach 15 feet and a spread of five to ten feet. Space plants six feet within rows and 16 feet between rows for farmstead and feedlot windbreak plantings.

Management

Weed control is necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Control weeds the first years by tilling or suppression of vegetation with herbicides before planting or with the addition of mulch/weed barrier mat for weed control. Selective approved herbicides provide good weed control after establishment year; follow the instructions on the label. Protect from 2,4-D type sprays, fires, grazing and trampling by livestock. Plastic netting, irritants or similar protective devices could be used to prevent deer and rodent damage the first five years.

Environmental Concerns

Hazelnut is not considered "weedy" or an invasive species, however it can spread by suckering, and when it does; the rate of spread is not alarming. It does not seem to spread from its original plantings.

Fruit Production

Fruit production of American hazelnut has been very successful in a spaced plant nursery. A mature hazelnut tree can produce 10 – 15 pounds of cleaned seed.

Plants are available in limited number from the Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri.

References:

A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs; p. 228; Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass., 1968.

Flora of Missouri; p. 524; Steyermark, L. A.; Iowa State University Press, Ames, Ia., 1968.

Seeds of Woody Plants in The United States; pp. 343 – 345; Schopmeyer, C. S.; Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 1974.

Gray's Manual of Botany; pp. 530 – 531; Rehder, Alfred; The Macmillan Company; Second Edition; Harvard University, 1940.

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