

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

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Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta var. californica*)

Distribution

Beaked Hazelnut, also known as beaked filbert grows well at elevations below 1,000 feet, from southern Canada to California.

Growth Habit

It is a deciduous tree that grows well in dry woodland forest or upland sites. It can reach heights from 12-24 feet. The leaves are rounded to oval, coarsely double-toothed with hairy undersides. Flowers form from April to May and seeds ripen from September to October. The fruit is in the form of a edible nut, which is enclosed in a husk that resembles the beak of a bird.

Adaptability

This plant prefers light sandy and medium loamy moist soils. Full sun to partial shade is preferable mainly in forest and upland environments. This tree tolerates strong winds but not maritime exposure.

Comments

- Beaked Hazelnut is a highly sought after tree that is beneficial in attracting wildlife.
- Native American used the nuts for trade as well as a favored food item.
- Another specie of hazelnut that can often get confused with the variation californica is *Corylus cornuta var. cornuta*.
- Beaked Hazelnut is an excellent soil stabilizer. Its root system, while relatively shallow, spreads extensively and is composed of a network of fibrous roots.

