Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
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American Hazelnut

Corylus americana

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: American Filbert, American Hazel



American Hazelnut in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



American Hazelnut fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A pleasant large, spreading shrub with no one particularly redeeming factor, but a tidy whole; produces tasty hazel nuts in fall; good choice for a natural forest setting

Edible Qualities

American Hazelnut is a large shrub that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces brown nuts which are usually ready for picking from early to mid fall. The nuts have a sweet taste.

The nuts are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating

Features & Attributes

American Hazelnut has dark green deciduous foliage on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The serrated pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. It produces brown nuts in mid fall.

This is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting squirrels to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Aside from its primary use as an edible, American Hazelnut is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Hedges/Screening
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping



American Hazelnut
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

American Hazelnut will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. While it is considered to be somewhat self-pollinating, it tends to set heavier quantities of fruit with a different variety of the same species growing nearby.

This plant is typically grown in a designated edibles garden. It performs well in both full sun and full shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.