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Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

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Corylus colurna: Turkish Filbert[1]

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Introduction

Turkish Hazel is a 40 to 50-foot-tall, occasionally 80-foot-tall (in its native habitat), deciduous tree with a beautiful pyramidal shape, the thick, tan to grey, short trunk supporting the dense horizontal branches. Growth rate is usually slow. Like many trees with horizontal branches, the main limbs are quite small in diameter in relationship to the typically straight trunk, and arise at almost a 90-degree angle. This should make the tree quite durable in urban areas and helps maintain a symmetrical crown so prized by landscape architects. The lush, dark green leaves are five inches long and stay on the tree long into the fall, finally turning a pale yellow/green before dropping, but fall color is far from striking. Inconspicuous female flowers and two to three-inch-long, attractive male catkins are produced in early spring and are followed by the production of clustered fruits which are quite irresistible to squirrels. On some older trees, the bark becomes ridged and corky, peeling off in sections to expose the orange/brown bark beneath. But this characteristic varies from one tree to the next.



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Corylus colurna*: Turkish Filbert

General Information

Scientific name: *Corylus colurna*

Pronunciation: KOR-ih-lus koe-LER-nuh

Common name(s): Turkish Filbert, Turkish Hazel

Family: *Betulaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5A through 7B (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: sidewalk cutout (tree pit); street without sidewalk; specimen; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; urban tolerant; highway median

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

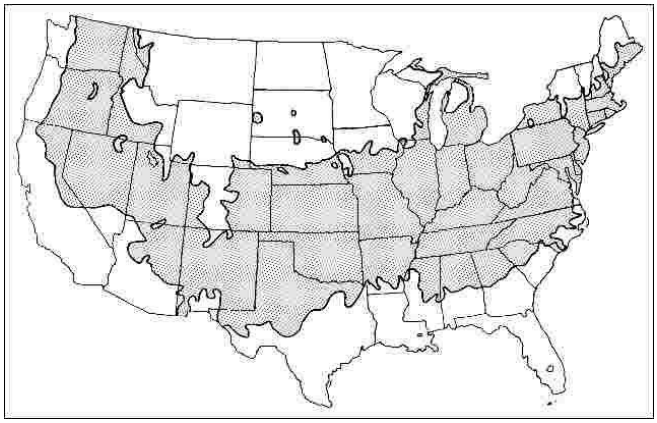


Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 40 to 60 feet

Spread: 25 to 35 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical

Crown shape: pyramidal, oval

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: double serrate

Leaf shape: ovate, obovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: not showy

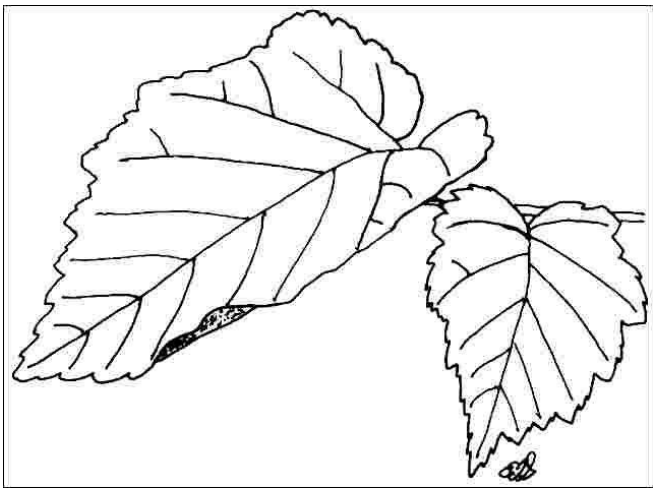


Figure 3. Foliage

Flower

Flower color: unknown

Flower characteristics: not showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval, elongated

Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch, 1 to 3 inches

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; showy; typically one trunk; thorns

Pruning requirement: little required

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: gray, brown

Current year twig thickness: thick

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained; occasionally wet

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: low

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: yes

Outstanding tree: yes

Ozone sensitivity: tolerant

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management

Turkish Hazel makes a wonderful shade tree since it produces very dense shade, and its narrow crown and ability to withstand air-pollution make it well-suited for use as a street tree in urban areas. It makes a rather formal statement in the landscape due to the tight, consistently-shaped, narrow crown. It is well suited for areas which have restricted overhead horizontal space for lateral branch development. Once the central leader has been properly trained in the nursery, the tree should require little if any pruning or other maintenance once it is established. The nut may be a slight litter problem for some, and considered more unsightly than dangerous. Turkish Hazel is susceptible to Japanese beetles which can defoliate portions of the tree rather quickly but this should not be cause to eliminate this very adaptable tree from your recommended tree list.

Turkish Hazel is an extremely tolerant tree, surviving hot summers, cold winters, wind, drought, and heavy or alkaline soils with ease. Plants should be located in full sun and, like most other trees, watered regularly for several years after transplanting. They are reportedly very difficult to transplant but once established they then become quite drought-tolerant and adaptable. Other trees scorch in summer drought whereas this one will stay green. This tree should enjoy a much wider use than it does now but may need to be grown in containers, or under field conditions which encourage root development inside the root ball, to overcome poor transplant survival.

Propagation is by seed or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

[1] This document is ENH359, one of a series of the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture. Original publication date November 1993. Revised December 2006. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the Ask IFAS website at https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication. © UF/IFAS. This publication is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 *To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/.*

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