

Quadra Nut Tree Project

Nut Tree Information Sheet

The ICAN Food Security Team has received funding through United Way to begin actively working on the Quadra Nut Tree Project and is currently looking for local public access areas for planting some nut trees!

Rooted in a long-term vision of food sustainability for our island, the goal of the Quadra Nut Tree Project is to begin a local "nut culture" through the planting of 100 publicly accessible nut trees. Although the trees will take some time to start producing, the project will be a great step in establishing an ongoing local source of both oil and plant protein that does not require electricity to grow, harvest, or store.

About the trees:

- The ICAN Garden Club Food Security Team has identified 5 varieties of nut tree to be planted, Hazelnuts, Black Walnut, English Walnut, Chestnut, and Heartnut.
- The trees will be 3-year-old clones and will initially range in height from between 18 inches and 5 feet tall.
- Each tree will be mulched with woodchips and, in unfenced areas, will be individually fenced with four posts and wire fencing.
- We are looking to plant 3-10 trees per location.
- Though some of the varieties are self-pollinating or partially self-pollinating, it's usually ideal to have at least two trees, sometimes of different varieties, to promote the best yield of nuts. Hazelnuts in particular are "self-incompatible" and must be pollinated by another cultivar that produces pollen at the same time.
- Each tree will be cared for by an individual or group of volunteers. The caregivers could be designated by ICAN or determined by the host organization.
- Watering strategies are still being explored and are dependent on the variety and cultivar of tree. Generally nut trees are more drought tolerant than fruit trees, and would only need to be watered during the first summer, and likely only a few times. Ideally the trees will be planted in the fall or winter so that the roots have a few months to get established when water is abundant.

Each variety of tree has its own growing requirements and mature size range:

Hazelnut:

- Mature Height- 15', Mature Width 15' (with regular pruning which is advised)
- Can be grown as a shrub (multi-stem) or a tree (single stem with branching allowed after a certain height)

- Partial shade - good as understory and forest edge trees and can even be densely planted to form a hedgerow.
- Soil: Deep loam, with good drainage, tolerant of wet soil/standing water for short periods of time.

Black Walnut:

- Mature Height- 40'-50', Mature Width 35'-50'.
- Full sun (at least 6 hours) / partial shade.
- Soil: Deep, rich, well-draining, loamy soil. Need ample moisture but don't do well in standing water for long periods.
- Walnuts exude juglone which will kill some other plants that the walnut sees as competitors beneath its canopy. It's best to do a bit of research before planting a walnut near other plants.
- Black walnuts present more challenges than English walnuts (more juglone, harder to crack), but for the sake of diversity and mitigation of risks (especially pests and disease) it might be prudent to plant a few Black Walnuts

English Walnut:

- Mature Height- 95', Mature Width 60'
- Full sun (at least 6 hours)/partial shade.
- Soil: Deep, well-draining, loamy soil, but tolerant of a variety of soil conditions.
- Walnuts exude juglone which will kill some other plants that the walnut sees as competitors beneath its canopy. It's best to do a bit of research before planting a walnut near other plants.

Sweet Chestnut:

- Mature Height- 30', Mature Width 30'
- Full sun-partial shade.
- Soil: Well-draining, slightly acidic, sandy loam, tolerant to drought and sandy/rocky soil, intolerant of clay/wet soils.

Heartnut:

- Mature Height- 50', Mature Width 65'-100'- low headed wide tree.
- Full sun (at least 8 hours)
- Soil: Well-draining, fertile clay-loam soil, heavy feeder that benefits from nourishing soil.