

Hazelnut Tree Varieties for sale

We are offering the new Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) resistant hazelnut trees, developed by the Oregon State University breeding program and sold by Naturetech Nursery in Courtenay.

Like most fruits and nuts, hazelnuts have many cultivars. They differ in size of nut, timing of pollination and harvest, flavour, tree stature, disease and pest resistance, and other characteristics.

It Takes Two

Two varieties of hazelnut trees are needed for cross pollination and nut production and not all varieties are compatible with each other.

The female, nut bearing, flower must also be receptive at the same time that pollen is released by the catkin (male flower). Since pollen release and receptivity occur at different times for different varieties, genetic compatibility alone isn't enough to ensure nut production. That's why commercial orchards use two or three compatible pollinizer varieties for each select nut variety.

On private properties on Quadra Island there may only be room for 2 or 3 trees. So we are asking property owners to decide how many trees they want and what varieties. Naturetech Nursery will look at your selection and determine whether your trees will be compatible. If not, they will make an alternate recommendation to ensure as best they can that your hazelnut trees will cross pollinate.

Here are the list of varieties to choose from as your main hazelnut-producing trees:

Dorris - Not yet as popular as some of their peers, Dorris trees exhibit some of the best features of all varieties. Where Dorris shines most is in

the blanching of kernels; Dorris kernels blanch better, on average, than any other Oregon variety. Blanching, or the removal of the hazelnut skin during roasting, is a highly desirable trait in foodservice, confectionery and consumer markets.

Jefferson - The catalyst for the current boom in Oregon hazelnut plantings, Jefferson was the first variety widely released to growers in the Willamette Valley. Jefferson trees remain the most popular new variety and are lauded for their ease of maintenance. The trees tend to grow in the desired “champagne glass” style with branches growing skyward rather than spreading out.

Jefferson trees tend to be a later-harvesting variety with high yields. Jefferson trees produce some of the largest nuts and kernels, and they are a popular inshell variety.

Lewis - Good yields of flavourful nuts. EFB resistant though not quite as much as other varieties.

McDonald - A kernel variety, McDonald produces very well and has the highest kernel percentage of the Oregon cultivars. McDonald trees are relatively easy to manage and prune. They are also very early to drop and harvest. (*McDonald is a licensed variety of Oregon State University and protected both by patents in the US and Plant Breeders Rights in Canada. Purchasers of this variety are not allowed to propagate for either further sale or expansion of orchards. Illegal propagation will be prosecuted.)

Sacajawea - Large nuts that ripen early. EFB resistant though not quite as much as other varieties.

Wepster - Wepster trees are at the top of the list for vigor, kernel fiber and kernel percentage. These traits make them desirable in the expanding kernel marketplace; Wepster kernels are coveted for candy and confections. Wepster trees are some of the first to harvest and relatively easy to manage with upright growth habits. (*Wepster is a licensed variety

of Oregon State University and protected both by patents in the US and Plant Breeders Rights in Canada. Purchasers of this variety are not allowed to propagate for either further sale or expansion of orchards. Illegal propagation will be prosecuted.)

Yamhill - Yamhill trees are some of the smallest statured yet highest yielding of the new varieties. They produce a small nut that is well-suited to industrial kernel uses, such as hazelnut paste. Yamhill trees are hearty and adaptable to nearly every growing condition. They are notorious for their shorter stature and tendency for branches to spread out and stay low to the ground rather than grow upward, meaning Yamhill trees require more pruning than Jefferson.

Yamhill trees are commonly processed as a kernel variety. Growers willing to put in the effort on maintenance can be handsomely rewarded with heavy harvests.