

American Hazelnut

Corylus americana

Soil Type	Clay, Loam, Sand
Soil Moisture	Dry, Medium, Moist. Drought tolerant.
Sun Exposure	Full Sun to Partial Shade (minimum 4 hours of sun)
Height	6' - 15'
Width	6' - 15'
Bloom Color	Red
Bloom Time	April, May
Seed/fruit	Nuts ripen in August, September
Fall Foliage Color	Yellow, Orange, Copper, Red
Spacing	10'



Thrives in a wide range of conditions and is a good choice for hedges or a windbreak. The dense, low growth habit provides cover and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife. It can be pruned at any time. Deep green leaves turn copper and yellow in autumn. It hosts over 100 lepidoptera species.

Nuts are eaten by squirrels, foxes, deer, northern bobwhite, ruffed grouse, turkey, woodpeckers, and pheasants. The leaves, twigs, and catkins nourish rabbits and deer. Turkey and ruffed grouse eat the male catkins in winter.

Male flowers are showy 2-3" long yellowish-brown catkins and female flowers are small, reddish, and inconspicuous. Female flowers develop into 1/2" long edible nuts encased in leafy, husk-like bracts. A single shrub may produce nuts, but as a wind-pollinated species **at least three shrubs** are recommended for optimal production. May take three years to yield nuts.

(Photos:
Sarah Michehl,
The Land Conservancy of
McHenry County)

