

Corylus avellana

Common Hazel



Ripe hazelnuts in autumn

Corylus avellana (Common Hazel) is a deciduous shrub typically found in hedgerows. Thanks to recent appearances in some wonderful show gardens, this common native shrub is gaining in popularity when planted as a specimen multistem.

Although when left it can reach 8-10m height, it's ability to withstand hard pruning means it is also suitable for a smaller space and can also be clipped to an architectural shape.

Flowering in early spring, *Corylus avellana* is monoecious with both the small red female flower and the long yellow male catkin on the same plant. The foliage is heart shaped, mid green with a double serrated margin. In Autumn it turns shades of yellow. The edible nuts which follow the flowers ripen in autumn adding year round interest. They are also a good source of food for wildlife.

Hazel can be a long-lived, especially when coppiced. The stems are very flexible and it has a long history of use in Britain and Europe, from fencing and hurdles to panels in wattle and daub building. It also has a reputation for magic being used to ward off evil spirits, water divining and the nuts carried as charms.

Plant Profile

Name: *Corylus avellana*

Common Name: Common Hazel

Family: Betulaceae

Height: Can reach 8-10m

Demands: Will grow in most well drained soils in sun or semi shade. Tolerant of exposed but not coastal positions

Foliage: Heart shaped, slightly hairy leaves with a double serrate edge. Green in summer, yellow in autumn

Flower: Long yellow male catkins and small red female flowers both borne in spring on bare stems

Fruit: Edible hazelnuts are produced, ripening in autumn

Bark: Responds well to coppicing, stems are flexible and can be used for fencing, woven hurdles, bean poles etc.



Corylus avellana, umbrella pruned 3-3.5m height

 Deepdale

Described by Leonhart
Zuchus as 'Avellana nux
sylvestris', the 'wild nut of
Avella', a town in Italy which
is where the species name
originates from.



The male catkins on common hazel in spring



4-5m multistem hazel



Foliage of *Corylus avellana*



Male & female flowers in spring



2-2.5m *Corylus avellana*, ideal for hedging



Common Hazel, a fast growing native plant