





# Hazelnut *(Corylus avellana)*

Type	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Height x Width (metres)	Spacing (metres)	Pollinator	Soil type	Sun	Moisture	Shelter	Plant	Harvest
	D	4 x 3	3-6	Y				Yes	Autumn	Autumn

## Site

- Needs a warm summer and cold winter, with frosts in spring. Prefers drier areas.
- Tolerates a little shade, but needs sunlight on the stems to form flowers.
- Avoid windy sites and very hot summers.
- Grows well in most soils except sand – must be well drained.

## Care

- Plant in autumn or early winter.
- Has shallow roots – mulch well.
- Pollinated by wind.
- Carries both male and female flowers on the same tree, but needs other varieties to cross-pollinate them – plant a group of varieties that will pollinate each other.

## Training & pruning

- Essential for good nut production.
- A *vase* shape makes it easier to collect the nuts and lets the sun reach the stems to stimulate flowering. Remove low-growing shoots and all suckers from the base of the tree four or five times throughout the season.
- A multi-stemmed *bush* reduces the harvest because some nuts get lost amongst the stems, and some fruiting wood gets cut off.

- Prune in late winter after the dangling male catkins have shed their pollen – but don't cut off wood carrying the small female flowers.
- Shorten the main leaders by about half, to an outward-facing bud.
- In late summer, break any longer side shoots in half and leave them hanging on the tree, so light and air can reach the inner branches. Cut them back further in the winter.
- If the tree becomes tired, prune it hard in winter to stimulate new fruiting wood.

## Companions

- Flowering bulbs.

## Harvest

- Takes 4–5 years to bear fruit.
- Collect the nuts from the ground in autumn. Dry them well to prevent the development of a fungus.
- Nuts in the shell last about 5 months in a cool, dry place. After shelling, they last up to a year in the fridge or 2 years in the freezer.
- Remove any nuts left on the branches, as they can stop the next season's female flowers from forming.
- Great eaten fresh, added to cereal or bread, roasted, or made into a spread.

## Health

- High in vitamins E, B1, B6 and folate, 'good' fats, protein and minerals.

## Recommended varieties

Whiteheart	Alexandra
Barcelona	Merv De Bolwillier
Ennis	Tonda de Giffoni



Vase shape