

Corylus colurna

Turkish hazel



Corylus colurna (Turkish hazel) is a large deciduous tree with a broad, egg-shaped crown, like a *Tilia*. It reaches a height of twenty to twenty-five metres, ten to twelve metres wide. The Turkish hazel occurs mainly as a standard tree but may also develop into a characteristic multi-stem. Older trees get a more open and broader leaf canopy, creating a far more whimsical egg-shaped crown. The tree is found in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Asia Minor and Central Asia. It occurs mostly in poor, dry, rocky forests, along with, amongst others, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Ostrya carpinifolia* and *Tilia tomentosa*. *Corylus colurna* was described by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in 1753.

The green and waxy leaves of *Corylus colurna* are oval with jagged edges and the pale underside is covered with soft/fine hairs. The leaves can change to a glorious butter yellow in autumn and ultimately form a yellow carpet under the tree. The yellow male catkins open in the late winter, a welcome cheery sight after the dark winter months. The female flowers are small and insignificant and develop 4-6 nuts in a husk with long scales. The decoratively scaly, light brown bark of the Turkish hazel is corky with shallow cracks. The leaf canopy is dense and provides both habitat and food for birds and squirrels in the autumn and pollen and nectar for insects in the spring.

The Turkish hazel is a valuable tree, suitable for hot and dry conditions, in larger gardens and parks. *Corylus colurna* is also used as a street tree but this must be sufficiently broad to accommodate the ultimate size of the crown. The Turkish hazel even enjoys summer heat and tolerates very extreme conditions. The tree responds very well to heavy pruning but the subsequent wood it produces is brittle. The wood itself is relatively soft but the tree can get very old. *Corylus colurna* requires a well-drained, preferably chalky soil and will not tolerate any flooding.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, fruit trees, woodland planting stock

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting, Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 20 - 25 m | **Width:** 10 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9A

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, birds, small mammals, humans | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: catkins, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour:** yellow-brown | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** matt green, underside grey-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, matt polished, rough, underside hairy, doubly serrate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** striking, edible, nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** pale brown | **Bark:** peeling, corky | **Twig colour:** pale brown | **Twigs:** bare, finely branched | **Root system:** deep, slightly branched, tap root, central root