



Corylus colurna Turkish Filbert¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

Turkish Hazel is a 40 to 50-foot-tall, occasionally 80-foot-tall (in its native habitat), deciduous tree with a beautiful pyramidal shape, the thick, tan to grey, short trunk supporting the dense horizontal branches (Fig. 1). Growth rate is usually slow. Like many trees with horizontal branches, the main limbs are quite small in diameter in relationship to the typically straight trunk, and arise at almost a 90-degree angle. This should make the tree quite durable in urban areas and helps maintain a symmetrical crown so prized by landscape architects. The lush, dark green leaves are five inches long and stay on the tree long into the fall, finally turning a pale yellow/green before dropping, but fall color is far from striking. Inconspicuous female flowers and two to three-inch-long, attractive male catkins are produced in early spring and are followed by the production of clustered fruits which are quite irresistible to squirrels. On some older trees, the bark becomes ridged and corky, peeling off in sections to expose the orange/brown bark beneath. But this characteristic varies from one tree to the next.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Corylus colurna*

Pronunciation: KOR-ih-lus koe-LER-nuh

Common name(s): Turkish Filbert, Turkish Hazel

Family: *Betulaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 7 (Fig. 2)

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size);

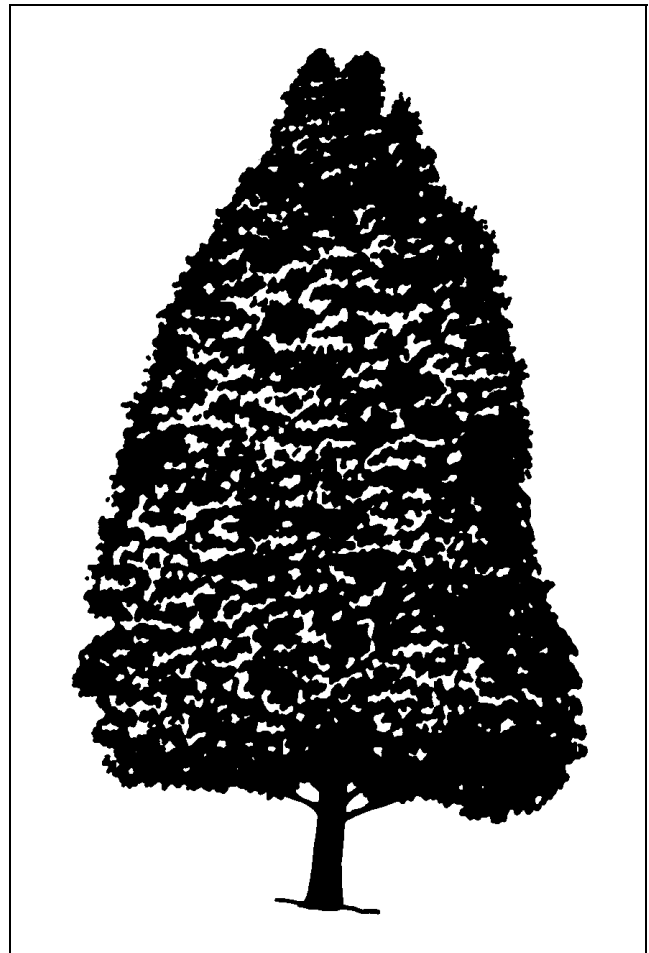


Figure 1. Middle-aged Turkish Filbert.

medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-200, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.

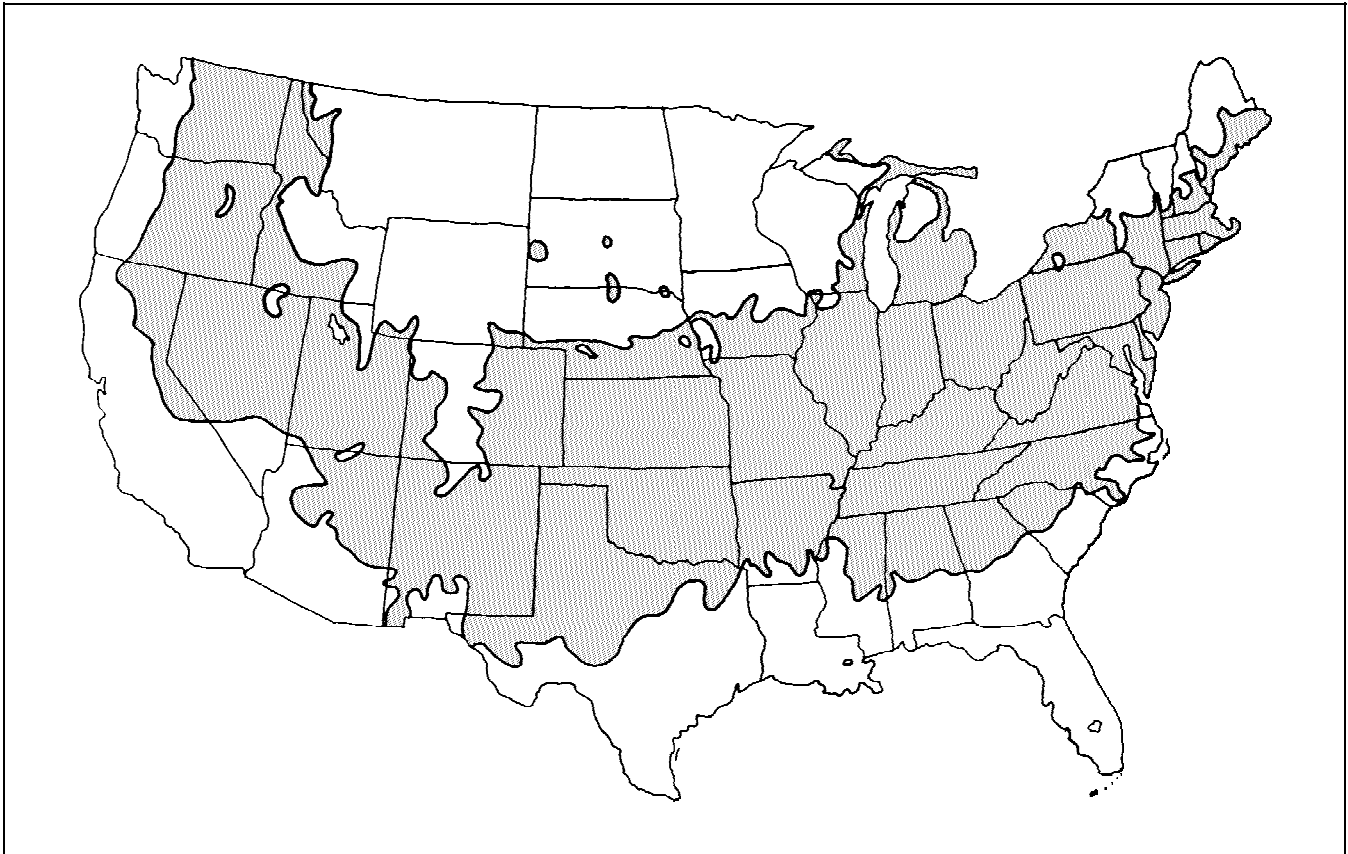


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 40 to 60 feet

Spread: 25 to 35 feet

Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

Crown shape: oval; pyramidal

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: double serrate

Leaf shape: obovate; ovate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 4 to 8 inches; 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: yellow

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: elongated; oval

Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches; .5 to 1 inch

Fruit covering: dry or hard

Fruit color: brown

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; attracts squirrels and other mammals; suited for human consumption; fruit, twigs, or foliage cause significant litter; showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

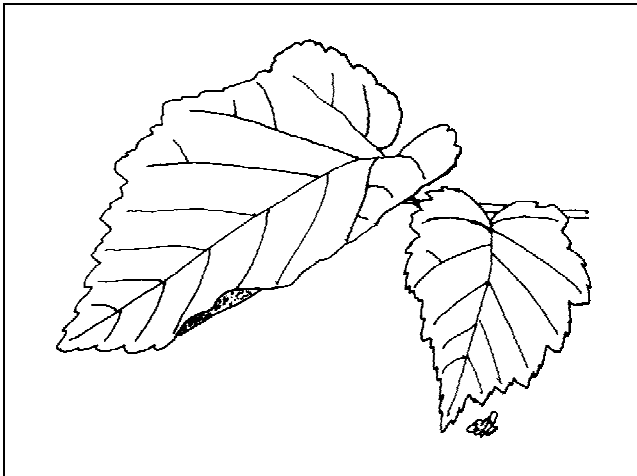


Figure 3. Foliage of Turkish Filbert.

Pruning requirement: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown; gray

Current year twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: low

Soil salt tolerance: poor

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Ozone sensitivity: tolerant

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

Turkish Hazel makes a wonderful shade tree since it produces very dense shade, and its narrow crown and ability to withstand air-pollution make it well-suited for use as a street tree in urban areas. It makes a rather formal statement in the landscape due to the tight, consistently-shaped, narrow crown. It is well suited for areas which have restricted overhead

horizontal space for lateral branch development. Once the central leader has been properly trained in the nursery, the tree should require little if any pruning or other maintenance once it is established. The nut may be a slight litter problem for some, and considered more unsightly than dangerous. Turkish Hazel is susceptible to Japanese beetles which can defoliate portions of the tree rather quickly but this should not be cause to eliminate this very adaptable tree from your recommended tree list.

Turkish Hazel is an extremely tolerant tree, surviving hot summers, cold winters, wind, drought, and heavy or alkaline soils with ease. Plants should be located in full sun and, like most other trees, watered regularly for several years after transplanting. They are reportedly very difficult to transplant but once established they then become quite drought-tolerant and adaptable. Other trees scorch in summer drought whereas this one will stay green. This tree should enjoy a much wider use than it does now but may need to be grown in containers, or under field conditions which encourage root development inside the root ball, to overcome poor transplant survival.

Propagation is by seed or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.