The Husk Dehisces Releasing Nut, Makes Processing Much Easier



#### **Desired Characteristics**

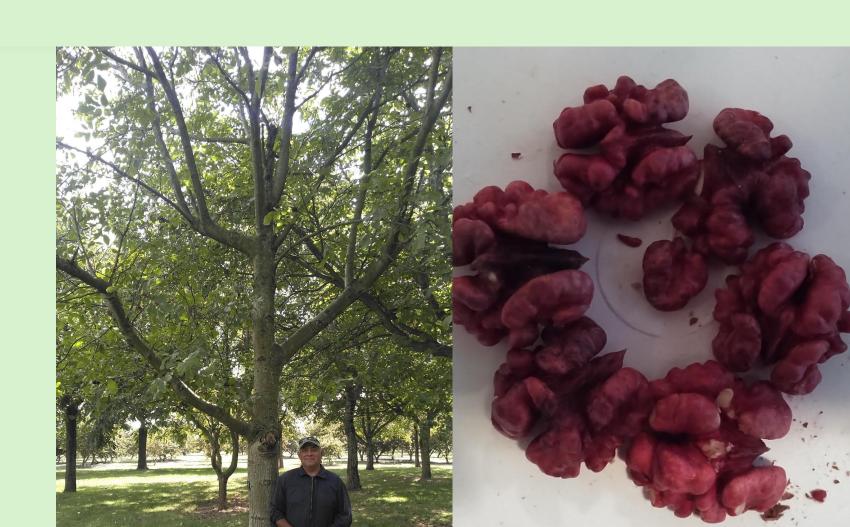
- Hardy to USDA zone 5 my site circa 140 frost free days
- Nut falls free from the husk most years
- Large, thin shelled nuts with high percentage of nutmeat
- Crack out easily
- Mild, nutty flavor, sweetness a plus no bitter aftertaste
- Late flowering/late leafing to escape late spring frosts
- Early maturity; retains leaves after nuts drop
- Annually productive/lateral bearing?
- Not prone to insect and disease issues
- Dwarf size shorter stature trees easier to prune and spray



Dwarf Cultivars Like Hansen Are Easier To Prune And Spray

#### 'Red Danube' and 'Robert Livermore'

- Taste better
- Higher in anti-oxidants
- Suitable for niche markets
- Adaptation through selection of seedlings from red kernel parent trees



### Husk Fly Maggot Damage and Larva







#### Stratification and Germination of Walnuts



- Cold stratify seed in moist peat moss, sand, etc. in refrigerator or buried in soil with wire mesh for rodent protection
- Soak seed in spring for at least three days in water; fresh water everyday – some soak for up to a week
- New to me pry open the shell along suture using a pocketknife or similar
- Plant outside in rodent protected beds or in pots in wire mesh cages
- Fall plant as soon as trees go dormant or hold over in freeze protected/rodent free environment and spring plant

#### Layering Hazelnuts to Propagate Clones/Cultivars

Ernie Grimo uses a mound of sawdust to encourage rooting



Abigail Gilson demonstrates how she layers hazelnuts



## Prune To Remove Dead Wood, Increase Photosynthetic Efficiency and Nut Size

#### **Unpruned for decades**



#### **Recently thinned**



# Pruning/Training to a Single Stem Allows Installation of Slippery Squirrel Exclusion Protection Plastic or Metal





### Uniform Sizing Makes Processing Much Easier Seedlings vs. Clones/Cultivars?





#### Processors Prefer Uniformity In Nut Size





### Nut Drying at the Grimo Nut Nursery Squirrel cage fan, plenum for air movement, and boxes with open mesh top and bottom





# Squirrels, Chipmunks, Blue Jays, Etc. Major Challenge for Nut Growers



- Repellents, peppermint, cayenne pepper mixed with lard
- Single stem with rodent guard
- Raptor perches
- Traps
- Hunting
- Distance from woods; remove cover

Earliest safe harvest for hazels when 60% of husk is brown





Surface Applications
Move Down Into The
Soil About ½-Inch
Per Year



