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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 1/2-Inch
Per Year

