

American Hazelnut



Tree Type

This shrub is deciduous and loses its foliage for the winter.

Planting

American Hazelnut can be planted as a hedgerow. Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

Watering

The soil around the Hazelnut should not be allowed to dry out completely. Water frequently for nut production. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

This shrub can be pruned at any time of the year but do the main pruning in late winter. Prune away unwanted suckers to maintain shape. Do not remove branches that shield the trunk from the sun.

Preferences

American Hazelnut prefers full sun to partial shade meaning it needs at least 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight. Full sun ensures a greater crop. It grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clays soils. Avoid densely packed soils.

Attributes

The American Hazelnut grows to a height of 15 to 18 ft with a spread of 10 to 12 ft at maturity. The shrub grows at a medium to fast rate height increases of anywhere from 13 in to more than 24 in per year. Hazelnut will begin producing crop 2 to 3 years after being planted. The ½ in. nuts can be harvested from September to October. Its leaves turn copper and yellow in the autumn. The shrub often takes on a multi-stemmed form with an open, wide-spreading base. Wildlife enthusiasts plant American Hazelnut to attract and keep game in the area.

Wildlife Value

The nuts produced by this shrub are preferred by squirrels, deer, foxes, turkey, woodpeckers, pheasants, grouse, quail and jays. The male catkins are a food staple of ruffed grouse throughout the winter. The leaves, twigs, and catkins are browsed by rabbits and deer. The dense, low growth habitat provides cover and nesting sites for birds and other wildlife.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. After that, water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established. The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.

Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.

After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.

BEFORE PLANTING

Select the correct tree for your site.
Find help at mndnr.gov/treecare.

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or gopherstateonecall.org to check for underground lines.

AFTER PLANTING

Mulching

Applying mulch, such as wood chips, around a tree has many benefits, including:

- Improving growing conditions
- Retaining moisture
- Controlling weeds and grasses
- Adding nutrients
- Insulating soil
- Protecting trunk and roots

Mulch that is applied too deeply and against the tree is harmful. This "mulch volcano" can rot the tree's trunk, lead to insect and disease problems, and deprive roots of oxygen. Use the "3-3-3 Rule" for applying mulch: 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and 3 inches away from the trunk.

Watering

Watering a tree is critical to its survival during the first three years. During any week in which less than 1 inch of rain falls, provide 15-25 gallons of water, until the ground freezes. After the first few years, continue to water trees during dry times. Tree water bags may make watering easier.

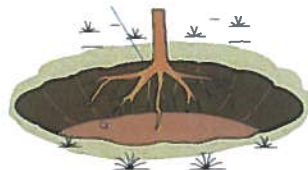
Protecting

A plastic or metal mesh tree guard can be installed around the tree's trunk to protect it from animal, mower, and trimmer injury. The tree guard must be removed or replaced as the tree grows.

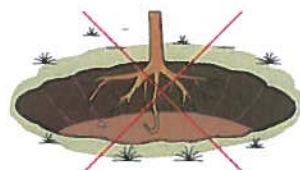


- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.
- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.

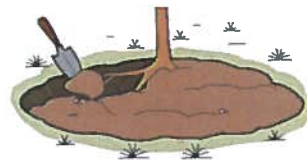
FIRST WOODY ROOT



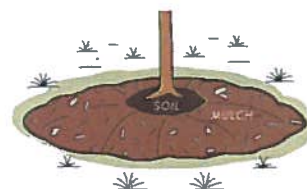
- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.



- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.



- 6 Heel in soil with foot over entire backfill area to remove air pockets from the soil.
- 7 Water entire backfill area.



- 8 Layer 3 inches of mulch over backfilled area, keeping mulch away from trunk.

