

NUT VARIETIES FOR MICHIGAN

Many nut trees grow well in Michigan. Named varieties bear most quickly, and may produce larger, higher quality nuts that are easier to crack. Plant 2 - 3 varieties of Chinese Chestnut, Hazelnuts and Persian Walnuts to ensure pollination. All others are self - fertilizing.

Hickories prefer light, well-drained soils. Named varieties that produce in 10-20 years include Glover, Kirtland and Romig.

Chinese chestnuts are prone to frost damage and prefer well - drained, slightly acid soil. Grafted trees bear about a year after planting; seedlings in 7 years. Varieties to consider include Abundance, Crane and Nanking.

Hazelnuts or filberts are usually bushes. American hazelnut is hardy here; European hazelnut or filbert is not. Hybrids between the two species vary in hardiness. Good varieties that should produce in three years include Bixby, Buchanan, Italian Red, Potomac and Winkler.

Heartnut prefers deep fertile soils but will tolerate sand. Named varieties such as Mitchel, Walters and Wright produce in 2 - 4 years. Butter nuts prefer deep fertile, moist soil. Good varieties that bear in 2-4 years include Lingle, Love, Sherwood and White.

Take care in planting black walnuts or planting other nut tree varieties near black walnut trees. Black walnut trees kill other plants growing in their root zone because their roots contain a chemical called juglone. Named varieties such as Adams, Allen, Beck, Grundy and Sparrow produce in 8 years; seedlings in about 12 years. Early maturing varieties of Persian walnuts are hardy although they may not produce each year. They require deep, fertile soils that retain moisture in the summer.

Ref: MSU Extension Website, Cultivars for Michigan

The **Master Gardener Hotline** is open from April to October, Monday through Friday. Lines are available 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at 888-678-3464

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