Beaked Hazelnut
*Corylus cornuta* var. *californica*

- One of the few nut trees in the Northwest, its common name comes from the sheathing that covers the nut, forming a “beak.” Hazelnuts are also called filberts.
- Beaked hazelnuts are easily recognized in winter because the male catkins cover mature trees. As the season progresses, the catkins extend longer and longer, eventually producing large amounts of golden pollen. This pollinates tiny bright red female flowers.
- The nuts are edible and highly prized by wildlife such as squirrels and large birds.

Landscape Value

A beautiful small tree with arching form, beaked hazelnut is most valuable for the landscape in winter when the charming male catkins provide winter interest. Use as a specimen plant or mixed with other woodland plants.

In summer it is covered with soft furry leaves and provides a graceful backdrop in the landscape. Beaked hazelnut prefers part shade with dryer woodland soil.

"Hazel initiates the rites of spring hereabouts and will be a special omen for those who watch for signs of yearly rebirth." Arthur R. Kruckeberg—*Gardening with Native Plants*