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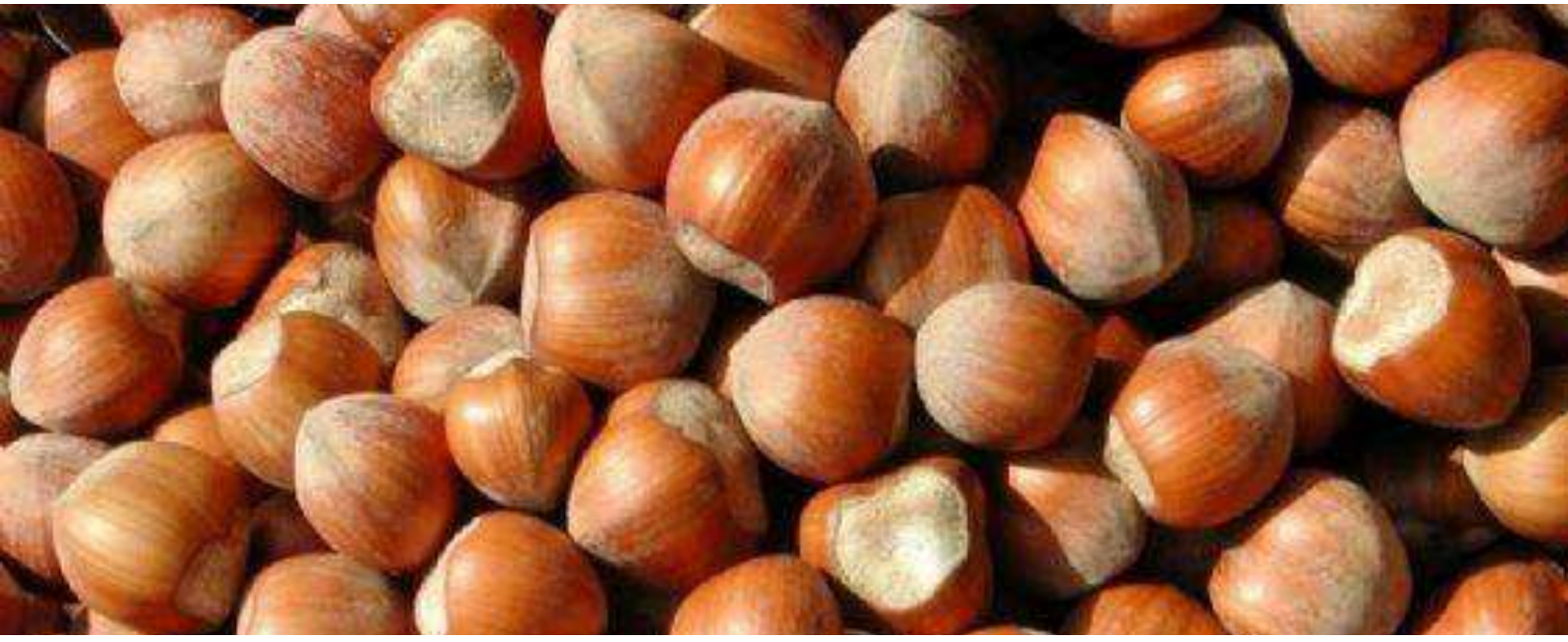

# SPECIAL HAZEL PLANT

**HAZEL**

The hazel plant has a characteristic bushy structure, with the very extensive radical apparatus and with a depth that varies depending on the characteristics of the soil. On the same plant has both male flowers, called catkins, pollen producers, both female flowers recognizable by the distinctive red "tuft".

The hazelnut's pollination is operated by wind. Hazelnut is a plant characterized by a strong hardiness, in fact we can found it in territories very different from each other, adapting to the different soil and weather conditions.

The hazelnut tree prefers loose soils, with neutral PH values (from 6,8 to 7,2), but it's able to adapt even to acid and caustic soils ( up to PH 8).
Hazelnut suffers particularly too compact soil and waterlogging that cause radical axphyxia and rot.
An hazelnut tree coltivated in a rational way starts producing after 5 - 6 year, and reach full productive capacity after 8 – 9 years.
There are some hazelnuts that with adequate pruning, continue their production even after 30 – 35 years from the implantation.

**SETTING OF NURSERY MATERIAL.**

Nursery – Hazelnut trees

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Actually, in Piedmont, the more simple and common hazelnut's propagation system, implemented by nursery farmers, is the use of suckers that come from certified stump, called "mother plants". The suckers will then be selected and put to take root in the nursery.
In the moment of implantation in nursery, the sucker is trimmed at around thirty cm, so that it can develop a good root system.
After one or two years in the nursery, the hazelnut tree is ready for planting in open field.
Is very important that the sucker used in the nursery, come from certified mother plants in order to preserve the characteristics of the variety and to ensure the phytosanitary conditions of the material used for the creation of the new hazelnut implantation.
To realize a new hazelnut implantation, with good guarantees of establishment, it's necessary to choose healthy plants, uniforms, with a good root system, free from damage caused by pests and guaranteed from a varietal point of view.
For the procurement of hazelnut trees, it's good to address to "approved" nurseries under existing legislation that can provide certified and guaranteed material.

Certified hazelnut trees

**NEW IMPLANT**

The installation of a new hazel is a task to which we must pay special attention because, at this stage, you make choices that could affect the entire production and economic cycle of our future hazel. The low productivity of some hazel, is a direct result of plant works poorly executed or made in an approximate way, without proper knowledge and technical skills.

**The preparation of the soil**

To create a new hazel grove, the soil must be prepared in mid-summer (July-August), when it is dry, using a deep recess (plowing or deep Ripping the ground).

Depending on the characteristics of the terrain, it must be made of a recess of at least 50/60 cm up to max of 80/90 cm.

When the recess in made, we proceed to the surface treatments of the soil with disc harrows or other, to make it fine. Thus prepared the soil is ready for planting new hazel grove.

Soil working.

**Planting of plants**

After finishing the preparation of the ground, we proceed to the tracking system in relation to the chosen planting layout (distance between the rows of plants and distance on the row).
It's better to make the planting of hazelnut plants in autumn, in the first days of November.
If there is an irrigation system in the hazel grove, the plant operations can also be done in spring.
Once the tracking is done we prepare the handmade hole with a shovel with a diameter of 40- 50 cm and a depth of 35- 40 cm, or with special mechanical drills or mini excavators.

Hole Preparation

Normally are positioned rods at the side of each seedling, which have the function both of support, both signaling.
It's necessary the incorporation of some pollinators, in order to enhance the pollination and therefore the production capacity of the hazel grove.


Young hazelnut implant

**Planting layout**

For hazel, like all other species of fruit, a standard planting distances cannot be adopted.
A mistake in choosing planting layout and pruning methods, could considerably affect the entire cycle of vegetation and production cycle of the plant.
The choice of planting layout depends on many things:

- the fertility of the soil;
- the chosen pruning methods;
- the possibility to make irrigation;
- the use of machinery, for example the machinery self-propelled for the harvesting of hazelnut.

Thanks to the mechanization of many cultural practices, such as pruning and mechanical harvesting, has been obliged to increase the distances between the rows. It is therefore recommended planting layout with distance between the files m. 6 x4 – 6x4,5 – 5,5 x 4 on the row.

It should be recalled that, with pruning methods "more free" like bushy structure, it's necessary to considerate the plant's need of lighting and aeration.
A word also also about "dense implant", even if in Piedmont is underdeveloped, where the number of trees is very high and the starting entry into production is considerably anticipated.

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