



## General information on Cobnuts

A Kentish cobnut is a cultivated variety of hazelnut, They are very good croppers, hardy and grow well on a wide range of soils except those that are waterlogged. It is possible to grow reasonably sized and cropping trees on stony ground as long as there is sufficient soil and good drainage.

They can readily be grown in gardens, but if you have grey squirrels they may eat them before they are ripe.

They produce separate male and female flowers. It is only the female flowers which develop into nuts, and then only if they are cross pollinated from the male flower. If the tree is not pruned, it can grow to approximately 6m tall, but in poorer soil conditions this can restrict its growth by some 20% -30%

Cobnuts are largely self sterile – which means they cannot pollinate each other if they are of the same variety. Wild hazels are known to pollinate cobnuts. Wild Hazels tend to be found in native hedgerows, but if non are available then a Cosford nut is a good pollinator.

Pruning normally takes place in the bare root season - generally end November to April. Pruning a cobnut tree is very similar to that of a fruit tree. A wine shaped glass with open top.

The trees can be subject to attack by **Grey squirrels**, who love nuts, and they enjoy a Cobnut or two.

**Nut weevil** is another pest which can reduce yield considerably. You will see the attack if a neat round hole in the shell emerges a week or two after the start of the season.

**Bigbud** is caused by a tiny mite that lives in the buds, and is most evident in early spring, when the enlarged buds, which give the pest its name are conspicuous. Most infected buds fail to develop and drop off.

However Kentish Cobnuts do survive these pests and produce a good crop of nuts.