Corylus colurna - Turkish Filbert (Betulaceae)

Corylus colurna is a large shade tree noted for bold texture, pyramidal form, ornamental winter bark/stems/catkins, dense shade from dark green shiny foliage, and urban tolerance. Turkish Filbert is underutilized in modern landscapes. It's an excellent substitute for other pyramidally-shaped shade trees such as Pin Oak or Littleleaf Linden.

FEATURES



Form

-large shade tree -maturing at about 60' tall x 30' wide -upright pyramidal growth habit -medium growth rate

Culture

-full sun to partial sun -very urban stress

-very urban stress tolerant, including adaptability to heat,

drought, pollution, poor soils, compacted soils, dry soils, and soils of various pH

- -propagated primarily by seeds but also by rooted stem cuttings
- -Birch Family, with virtually no disease or pest problems, except for occasional skeletonizing of the foliage by Japanese beetles
- -moderately available in B&B form

Foliage



- -alternate, dense, shiny dark green, thick, and clean throughout the summer
- -broadly ovate to broadly obovate, to 6" long x 5" wide, with a cordate base, an acute apex, and with margins doubly serrated and somewhat incised -autumn color is yellowish green and ornamentally

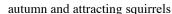
ineffective

Flowers

- -monoecious, with the prominently pendulous male catkins being quite obvious in winter, and swelling from 1-4" in length in Mar. and swaying in the breezes of early spring
- -female flowers occur at the same time, but are very small and ornamentally inconspicuous

Fruits

-0.5" diameter nuts occur in clusters and are covered with an incised husk-like involucre, maturing in early



-cross-pollination between different trees is needed for good fruit set

Twigs

-buds are pronounced on the stems, which are often fissured or corky by their second year of growth, with a bold texture on young branches

Trunk

- -the light brown, flaky outer bark is quite attractive when viewed up-close in winter, while the inner bark is slightly orange but often unnoticed
- -trees maintain a strong central leader to maturity, with symmetrical branching that forms a broadly pyramidal outline
- -some specimens are allowed to branch to the ground, but most trees are limbed up with maturity to yield a stately shade tree character

USAGE

Function

- -shade, focal point, specimen, or winter accent tree **Texture**
- -bold texture in foliage and when bare (medium texture when in flower)
- -thick density in foliage and when bare

Assets

- -very urban tolerant, especially to drought, poor soils, and alkaline pH soils
- -large shade tree that casts a dense shade, having dense, dark green, attractive foliage
- -ornamental bark, corky stems, pendulous catkins, and bold symmetrical pyramidal outline create attractive features in winter
- -disease- and generally pest-free (except for Japanese beetle), with clean foliage

Liabilities

- -poor autumn color
- -turfgrass will thin or die out under mature trees due to dense shade
- -if Japanese beetles are common in the area, they will enjoy munching on this tree

Habitat

- -Zones 4 to 7
- -Native to Turkey and Southeastern Europe

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- -very urban tolerant shade trees (Acer x freemanii, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Ginkgo biloba, Gleditsia triacanthos, etc.)
- -large pyramidal trees that are deciduous (Alnus glutinosa, Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus palustris, Taxodium distichum, Tilia cordata, etc.) -large trees with winter character (Alnus glutinosa, Betula nigra, Betula papyrifera, Gymnocladus dioicus, Metasequoia glyptostroboides, Zelkova serrata, etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

-species form is practically the only form available