



# Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

**Common Name:** Beaked hazelnut, Filbert

**Scientific Name:** *Corylus cornuta*

**Plant Family:** Betulaceae

**Identifying Characteristics:**

Size: The beaked hazelnut is a multi-stemmed perennial-deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow 1 to 6 m (3 to 19 ft) in height.

Leaves: Alternate leaf arrangement with hairy, oblong to ovate leaves generally 4 to 10 mm long. Leaf margins doubly serrate.

Flowers: Beaked hazelnut has separate male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers. Tiny pistillate flowers are arranged spirally in a yellowish catkin that hangs from twigs; pistillate flowers are enclosed in bracts at the tips of twigs (appear as terminal buds) with red showy stigmas visible.

Bark: Smooth or scaly, dark brown. Twigs glabrous to sparsely pubescent, sometimes with glandular hairs

Habitat: Full sun to part shade in organically rich, medium moisture but well-drained soils. Associated with forest edges and openings, thickets, and rocky slopes at low to middle elevations.

Bloom time: Early spring

**Information sources:**

- (1) The Jepson manual: higher plants of California. University of California Press.
- (2) USDA, NRCS. The PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)
- (3) Flora of North America Editorial Committee (www.fna.org/FNA/)
- (4) Missouri Botanical Garden. (www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp)

**Did you know?** As the common name suggests, the husk (involucral tube) surrounding the nut extends beyond the nut by at least one inch to form a beak. Nuts ripen in late August and September and are edible, though most commercially-available hazelnuts come from hybrid plants.



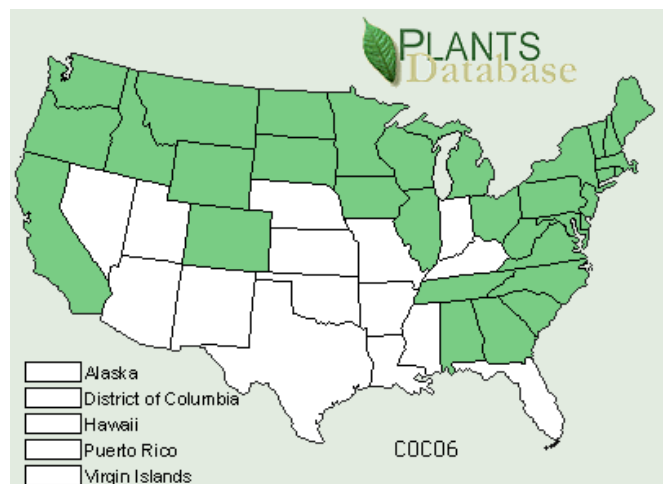
Photograph by William S. Justice @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Photograph by John R. Seiler @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

**Phenological observation:**  
Budburst/First leaf, First Flower

**Distribution Area:**



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)