

Hazel

Corylus avellana



What to look for

Deciduous shrub with multiple stems

Grows to some six metres tall

Smooth, brown-grey bark that splits and flakes with age

Distinctive round, slightly hairy, pointed-tipped leaves

In spring it develops yellow catkins

Female catkins look more like leaf buds with red styles protruding from the tip

The edible nuts, held in green, leafy cups, turn brown when ripe



Did you know?

The Celts believed that hazelnuts were a source of wisdom – the Gaelic word for the nuts was cno, with the word for wisdom being cnochach.

They had an ancient tale of nine hazel trees that grew around a sacred pool. Salmon living in the pool ate the falling nuts and absorbed the wisdom.

The number of bright spots on the salmon's skin showed how many nuts they had eaten.

Where found

Found throughout the UK in woodland, scrub and hedgerows

When to look

Flowers January-March

Leaves in April, leaves drop October - December

Ripe fruit in October

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