

EUGENE LEGACY TREES



Pyramidal shape of the County Farm Road Turkish filbert, 2005.

Legacy Tree Number 8 *County Farm Road* *Turkish Filbert*

Corylus colurna

Location: 3166 County Farm Road

Height: 67 feet

Canopy spread: 47 feet

Diameter: 42.3 inches at 2.8 feet

Age: uncertain; estimated at 100 years

Turkish filberts or hazelnuts are native to Southeast Europe and Western Asia and were used locally as rootstock for the European filbert (*Corylus avellana*), the species preferred by commercial filbert growers. Turkish filberts were favored as rootstock because they do not produce suckers. This was a significant time-saver, as other species require that the many sprouts that grow naturally around the base be removed for commercial cultivation. They are not used as rootstock in current production due to new propagation and cultivation techniques, which make time-intensive grafting obsolete.

These trees typically grow to 50 feet tall, although in favorable conditions, such as in the rich alluvial soil along County Farm Road, they grow taller. The leaves are a rich dark green and the canopy forms a beautiful dense pyramidal shape with age. It is exceptionally drought tolerant once established and also will thrive in urban conditions. Turkish hazel is unfortunately not readily available in the nursery trade and so not commonly planted as an ornamental tree.

Oregon is the center for commercial filbert production in the United States which began in 1892 at Dorris Ranch in Springfield. This Legacy Tree is a remnant from an abandoned orchard previously existing in this part of Eugene. It is most likely the rootstock of a European filbert which remained and grew into a tree after the grafted nut species died on top. It is believed to be one of the oldest remaining trees of this species in the area. The age is unknown but it is possibly from 1st generation trees planted at the turn of the last century.



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To view all the Legacy Trees, go to www.eugenetreefoundation.org