

Filbert European *Corylus avellana*

Corylus avellana commonly called European Filbert, European hazel, cobnut and Harry Lauder's walking stick is a deciduous, thicket-forming, multi-trunked suckering shrub.

Common names of filbert and hazel are likely interchangeable. Hazel is more often used in reference to wild specimens and filbert is more likely to be used in reference to cultivated plants. The filbert nuts to be produced in commerce primarily come from plants (*C. avellano* x *C. maxima*).

'Contorta', commonly called contorted filbert, corkscrew hazel or Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, is contorted version of the species plant. It was discovered growing as a sport in an English hedgerow in the mid-1800s by Victorian Gardner Cannon Ellacombe. This plant was given the common name of Harry Lauder's walking stick in the 1900s in honor of the Scottish entertainer Harry Lauder.

The European Filbert leaves are dark green, slightly covered with fine soft hairs above and beneath; alternate; 2-4" in length, somewhat circular to egg – shaped or heart – shaped, abruptly tapers to a point at apex, edge doubly toothed, often with lobes, petiole ¼" to ½" long. The twigs are brown, glandular – hairy. Buds green to brown, hairless with hairy scale; overlapping, egg shaped to round.

Flowers/Fruit: Flowers monoecious; male flowers are large (2" to 3") catkins, yellow – brown, late winter to early spring blooming; female flowers inconspicuous. Fruit a nut; nuts inside involucre, which is toothed or lubed and nearly the length of the nut; ¾" in length; edible fruit grown commercially as a crop.

European Filbert bark is pale to gray – brown, smoother with age, not an ornamental feature. The wood is unimportant; susceptible to wood rots and decays. The deciduous, rounded, multi trunked shrub typically grows 8 – 10' tall and the features, as the cultivar name suggests, twisted and spiraled branches, twigs and leaves.

You can find this tree by the front porch at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

