

Issue 111

JULY 2018

SONGNEWS

The Newsletter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers
Eastern Chapter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers

WWW.SONGONLINE.CA



Le Balachon, NNGA Conference Aug.5-8/18

If you Haven't Renewed

Its time for your annual membership. Check your envelope for the year you are paid up. Still Only Paid up to 2017? Please renew now.

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SONG Website

www.songonline.ca

Check it for updates on
meetings, read about nut
farming, post your nuts or
nut products to sell on line.

Send your free posting to:

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NUTS ABOUT HEARTNUTS

The cookbook is still available, The book is priced at \$12. Please add \$3.50 for mailing. Growers who wish to buy the books in quantity to resell at their market stands, etc. contact Ernie for prices. Send cheque made out to SONG to:

Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer
53-3339 Council Ring Rd,
Mississauga, ON
L5L 2A9

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Have you visited the ECSONG tab on the SONG website recently to see the work that was done there? If you click on the SONG NEWS tab, you will be impressed to find all of the SONG NEWS issues from the beginning of SONG in 1972. Enthusiastic members of ECSONG did this for all members and visitors alike. There is plenty of reading there for the new as well as old	

Coming Events

Northern Nut Growers Association 2018 Annual Conference

Sunday, August 5, 2018 - Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Location: Le Baluchon, 3550, chemin des Trembles, St. Paulin, Quebec, Canada.

Le Baluchon is located in a beautiful wooded section of Quebec, Canada, about an hour from Montreal.

To receive additional information about this conference, the agenda, etc. when it becomes available, send an email to the NNGA Webmaster at icomserve@aol.com with the subject "2018 NNGA Conference".

US travelers to Canada, please note that a passport or enhanced driver's license is required if driving, otherwise a passport is the only acceptable document for flying.



Le Baluchon, NNGA Conference Aug.5-8/18

SONG 2018 FALL MEETING

FEATURING: A chance to see what an entrepreneurial spirit can create. Lis Burrows and her husband, Mitch, have planted a nut grove so they can use their own tree products in their value added treats. The trees are small yet but they are living their dream by using their own recipes to make and sell their nut specialties at the Royal Winter Fair and at other special events. She now supplies specialty stores that feature her nut delicacies too.

A visit and tour of a craft brewery or an alternative site may be included on this day, but that is still to be arranged.

DATE: Saturday, September 22, 2018. **TIME:** 11:00 am. Barbeque lunch will be provided.

LOCATION: 6325 Fifth Line, Fergus, ON N1M 2W5. Take Hwy 6 N to Fergus. Turn right on Belsyde Ave W. (1.8 km).

SONG ANNUAL MEETING

Arrangements are still being made and speakers have yet to be selected. The date will be Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Plan ahead to be at this technical meeting of SONG.

We are looking for volunteers and nominees for our executive. All offices are open, including the President. Contact President Ernie Grimo by phone 905-934-6887 or email ernie.grimo@yahoo.com with nominations.

Spring Auction Meeting Our meeting has not been well attended at the Simcoe Experiment Station Hall. Better attendance seemed to be in or near Toronto. We are open to suggestions for a suitable location for our Sunday, May 5, 2019 auction meeting. Please contact Ernie Grimo if you have a good location in mind.

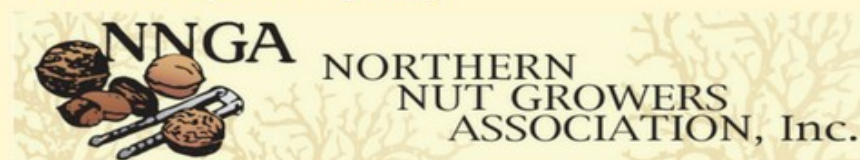
2018 NNGA & CPNCQ JOINT CONFERENCE

LE BALUCHON ECO RESORT
ST-PAULIN, QC, CANADA
AUGUST 5 - 8, 2018

The Northern Nut Growers Association and the Club des producteurs de noix comestibles du Québec have teamed up to bring together **acclaimed experts** in the field of **nut cultivation** for a joint conference. Guided orchard tours will also be offered.

Join us this summer to learn more about nut growing and for the annual meeting of both organizations!

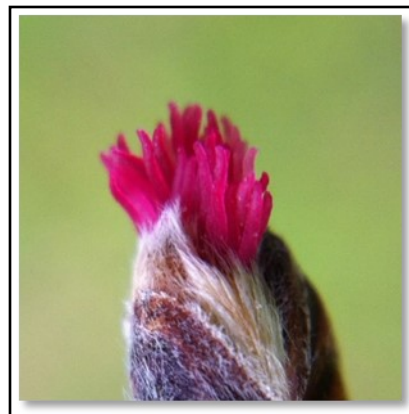
For additionnal details visit
www.nutgrowing.org



Normal and Damaged Female Hazel Flowers By John F Kelsey

The eastern United States and Canada are in want of a solid agricultural plan for a commercial hazelnut industry. The major obstacle has been the Eastern Filbert Blight. Thanks to breeding programs, the solution to that problem seems to be within sight. A second major eastern problem is the erratic production from varieties that perform reliably in traditional hazelnut climates. The core of the erratic production problem in the East is the wild swings of winter temperatures during the hazel's flowering period. The hazel flowers are cold-tolerant while dormant, but mid-winter warm periods bring flowers out of dormancy. A following arctic spell can damage the exposed flower structure.

We have been observing hazel flowers at arm's length for several years and have tried to understand the damaged and normal stages of progression at pollination time. It has been rather confusing. This year we invested in some macro photo equipment and were determined to zoom in and learn more.

Hazel Female Flower - - - Normal Progression

Hazel Female Flower - - - Normal Progression



Figure 7 – Maroon



Figure 8 – Mostly Black



Figure 9 - Black

Figures 1 to 9 show the normal (uninjured) progression of the female hazel flower structure. The exposed sticky red stigmatic filaments capture pollen grains from the wind. Varieties typically spend about a week at each stage shown, but weather around freezing will hold up progress. When the filaments turn maroon, as shown in Figure 6, it seems that the receptive time has elapsed. I don't think that maroon is a sign of successful pollination, because all the filaments all turn together, but not all are pollinated – I've been wrong before.

Not all varieties extend their stigmatic filaments the full 3mm. Some, for example, the clever Yamhill, only extends 1mm and holds 2mm in reserve in case the exposed part gets freeze-damaged.

During dormancy, before the red dot stage, the flower structures are unharmed at temperatures well below (-18° C (0° F.)). **Once the red filaments are exposed, they are vulnerable to damage at temperatures below -4° C (the mid 20's F.).** (Here is where some varieties, especially the northern hybrids may be a more tolerant than others.) Freeze damage would be too late to cause harm after the red stages, because any captured male germ is then protected well inside the female bud.

Hazel Female Flower - - - Freeze Damage

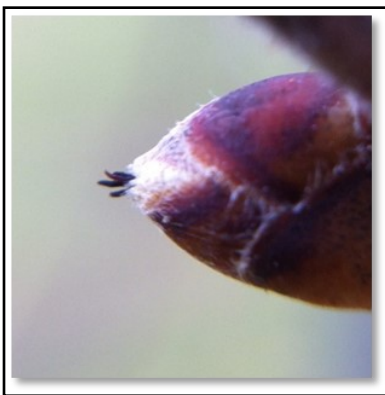


Figure 10 - Black Dot



Figure 11 - Black Dot Section

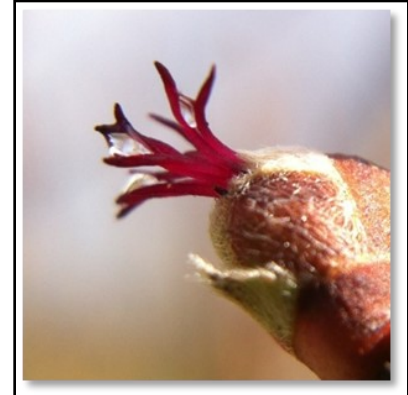
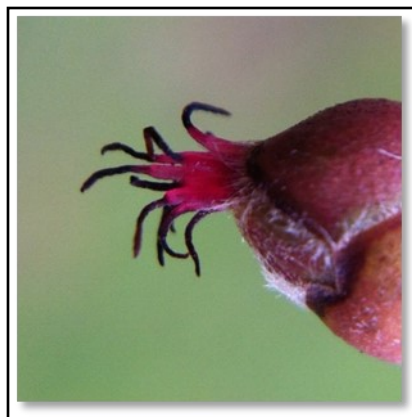


Figure 12 – Black Dot Pushed

Hazel Female Flower - - - Freeze Damage**Figure 13 – New Freeze damage****Figure 14 – Partial Damage**

Figures 10 to 14 show various aspects of freeze damage. Figure 10 shows the “black dot” freeze damage during the red dot stage. This winter, Tonda di Giffoni, Slate, and Sacajawea were damaged by exposure to -16°C ($+2^{\circ}\text{F}$.) during their red dot stage. Figure 11 shows a section of the damaged flowering bud and healthy stigmatic structure protected inside. All three varieties resumed their stigmatic extension after 3 weeks and are probably okay. Figure 12 shows a recovered flower with black dots now pushed out and functional stigmatic surface exposed. I flagged these buds and they are the same buds that were black dots earlier. During freeze damage, cells burst and the next day the tissue has a pink watery appearance, as shown in Figure 13. About 3 days after the damage, they shrink and turn black. Figure 14 shows freeze damage from -5°C ($+23^{\circ}\text{F}$.), which only damaged the outer half of the exposed red spider filaments. Notice that Figure 14 looks quite different from Figure 12, although I expect both can still catch pollen.

So in conclusion, female hazel flowers are tough. They are freeze-resistant before and after the red receptive stages, and they have tricks to succeed despite damage during their receptive exposure. The story, however, is not so good for the boys (coming soon).

Regards – John F Kelsey

Black walnut culture and use in Eastern Ontario By Gordon Wilkinson

Culture

According to range maps, black walnut is native to only a very small part of Eastern Ontario in an area around Morrisburg along the St. Lawrence River (see isolated green patch on the map in Figure 1). It is not at all clear how this isolated population of black walnut developed, but the Iroquois, who lived along the St. Lawrence well before the arrival of Europeans and who practised agriculture, may have introduced black walnut into the area from seed collected further south.

Black walnut has been widely planted in Eastern Ontario and has adapted well to the region's soil and severe winter cold as shown by the large number of green dots on the map in Figure 1. Each green dot represents a location where black walnut has been planted at some point over the past 100 or more years. Mature black walnut trees grow in parks, along streets, and on lawns in cities, towns and villages throughout the region, for instance, Ottawa, Cumberland, and Perth. Black walnut grows as far north as Pansy Park in Pembroke and on Calumet Island, where it is believed to have been planted by indigenous peoples. Black walnut trees were planted by ECSONG members many years ago in public nut groves such as Filmore R. Park and Oak Valley. Many ECSONG members and others have planted black walnut trees on their private property. The scale of these plantings ranges from as few as a handful of black walnut trees to well over 1,000 trees. Over the past few decades, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has reforested numerous private landholdings by planting at each site as many as 200 to 3,000 black walnut seedlings mixed with other tree species.

The largest black walnut plantation that we are aware of was established by the late Neil Thomas on his farm in Mallorytown. He planted over 2,000 black walnut seedlings and in 2010 published a technical analysis of his approach to black walnut nut production called *Biomass Nut Production in Black Walnut: Exploring Management*. The new owners of Neil's farm have preserved his black walnut plantation. They have been recently contacted by phone and it is our hope that they will get back to us and allow us to visit their farm.

Uses

The Iroquois who lived along the St. Lawrence River consumed a wide variety of edible nuts, including black walnut. Black walnut was either eaten raw, incorporated into other foods, such as cornmeal bread, or processed into oil. Modern day use of black walnut in Eastern Ontario is minimal at best. Private owners have planted black walnut trees either for nuts, wood, some combination of nuts and wood, or for biodiversity/reforestation. The difficulties associated with removing the husk, cleaning the nut, cracking the nut, and extracting the nut meat and the absence of any machinery in the region to mechanize these steps means that the use of black walnuts for food is limited to the very few enthusiasts willing to collect and process black walnuts by hand for their own consumption. The techniques for hand processing are varied. One ECSONG member added his method in three separate videos on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6F4TGpGwZS8>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tW7j9zaPZaY>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aA14VuaKW9Y>

The late Neil Thomas, with the assistance of two students at Algonquin College in Ottawa, succeeded in developing a nut cracking/sorting machine. This machine was given to Kemptville College at the time of his death. With the subsequent closure of this college, the whereabouts of this machine is not known. Nor is it known whether Neil Thomas was able to correct some flaws in its design that were noted by one long time ECSONG member.

Hidden Harvest, a volunteer organization dedicated to harvesting fruits and nuts growing in Ottawa's urban environment that would otherwise go to waste, has nut enthusiasts who have collected black walnuts in the past, but processing difficulties have prevented them from using these nuts for food. Black walnuts stored from harvests as far back as 2013 have since been distributed to squirrels!

In the village of Cumberland there is a local artisan bakery and café called the Black Walnut Bakery. Unfortunately, it does not utilize black walnuts in any of its recipes. It is named after the black walnut trees that grow profusely throughout the village.

Black walnut could be used widely as a food source in Eastern Ontario, if mechanized processing systems on a

(Continued from page 8)

scale consistent with harvest volumes in our region could be purchased or developed economically. Several local bakeries and a major ice cream company have expressed interest in offering Christmas specialty products, if sufficient local nuts can be supplied. A small in-shell market could perhaps be developed if grafted material known for easy cracking nuts and cold hardiness were planted rather than seedlings. In the interim a healthy foodstuff remains unharvested under numerous mature black walnut trees to be consumed by squirrels or gathered by home owners or municipal workers for disposal (see photo in Figure 2).

Figure 1: Black Walnut Sites in Eastern Ontario

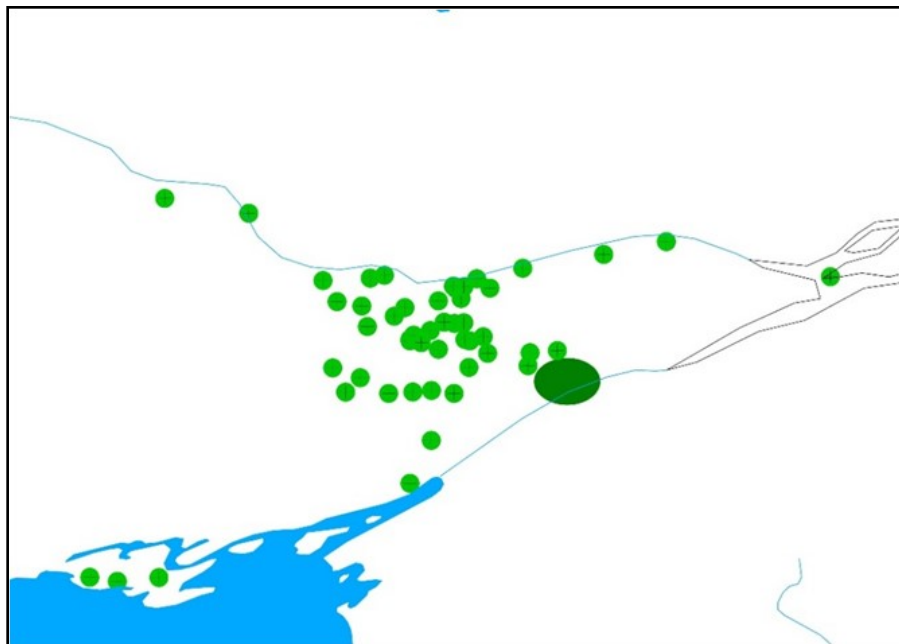


Figure 2: Black Walnuts Languishing Under a Street Tree in Perth



Classifieds

GRIMO NUT NURSERY LTD

In business since 1972, we are the only nursery in Canada that specializes in grafted and layered nut trees and a selection of grafted "orphan fruit trees". All listed cultivars are tested in our own orchards before we offer them for sale. While trees can be picked up at the nursery, we ship fresh dug bare root trees in the spring across Canada and the United States. A selection of potted trees are available during the growing season.

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Own rooted (layered or cloned) hazelnut trees are available for commercial growers. Grafted and seedling trees are available of heartnut, Persian walnut, black walnut, butternut, sweet chestnut, hazelnut, pecan, hickory, pine nut, and more including a selection of rare hybrids. Fruit trees offered include pawpaw, persimmon, mulberry, fig and quince. We also sell harvesting equipment, tree shelters, nut crackers & Ontario nuts & nut meats.

Our 10 page print catalogue is \$1 or two current Canadian letter stamps, but free for SONG members. Our new on-line catalogue is updated daily as items are sold out. For information or ordering:

www.grimonut.com
nut.trees@grimonut.com
phone: (905)-Yeh-nuts
(905-934-6887) Fax: 905-935-6887
or write: Grimo Nut Nursery
979 Lakeshore Rd, RR #3
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

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We also offer a variety of Rare & Unusual trees & Shrubs. We also offer solid state pest controls and harvesting equipment for sale.

We only Spring ship freshly dug bare rooted trees. Pick up can be arranged as well. Please visit our website for our online catalogue for more detailed information about the above listed trees. Those wanting a printed 22 page catalogue is available for \$5.00 which is refundable when placing an order. To contact us about ordering:

www.nuttrees.com / rhoras@nuttrees.com, phone or fax
905-899-3508, or write us: Rhora's Nut Farm &
Nursery, 33083 Wills Road, R. R. #1, Wainfleet,
Ontario L0S 1V0

...**MEMBERSHIP** benefits in the Society of Ontario Nut Growers (SONG) & ECSONG (Eastern Chapter of SONG) include three yearly newsletters, along with 3 annual meetings in two regions, set to satisfy the needs of both the commercial growers and the hobbyists. For an added bonus, **new members** will receive SONG'S own nut growing manual, *Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide*, a \$20 value, **free**, when you take out a three-year, \$45 membership. Simply ask for your free copy when joining SONG. For added information, view the ECSONG handbook at <http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/>. Fill out the tear off below and send to: **SONG/ECSONG, Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 53-3339 Council Ring Rd, Mississauga, ON L5L 2A9**. Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. **Dues can also be paid by e-transfer to: song.treasurer@yahoo.com**.

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Date: _____ Renewal: ☐ New membership: ☐ Payment enclosed for: 3 Years \$45.00 ☐ One year \$17.00 ☐

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