WALNUT

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Walnut trees in Sweden

Selected cultivars of walnut trees can thrive and produce well all the way up to central Sweden in zone 4 and maybe even zone 5. Along with cold-hardiness the biggest problems are linked to late spring frosts, as well as the robustness of the trees against fungi and bacteria in our, often cool and damp, summers. We are testing new cultivars every year of the most cold-resistant cultivars from around the world and select for disease resistance, cold hardiness, quality nut production, and other traits that are advantageous for the Swedish climate. We expect that, along with highly cold-resistant rootstock (i.e. J. cinerea and J. mandshurica), some of the cultivars we offer may even ripen nuts in zone 5. We sell only grafted walnut trees that will inherit 100% of the properties of the mother plants. All our trees are grafted and grown outdoors at our nursery (zone 4) in fully organic conditions.

Walnut requirements

Most walnut cultivars grow into big trees so typically should be spaced at 8-12 meters. All walnuts need a sunny, warm and well-drained growing area. They must be able to access groundwater with their long taproots, which can be three to five meters deep in fully-grown trees. Walnuts strongly dislike waterlogged ground and in such a location will probably die within a few years. Even where the trees survive, wet soils will increase the risk of fungal or bacterial infections and other tree health problems. Walnuts prefer slightly alkalinity (pH 6.0-7.0). Careful choice of site may reduce the risk of frost damage. On still nights, cold air flows downhill to settle in low areas. Sloping ground is much less prone to late frosts. Exposure to wind should be avoided. However, shelter can be created by planting hedges and shelterbelts. Nitrogen fixing trees and shrubs are strongly recommended for this as they grow quickly to form a dense barrier to wind as well as improve the soil. Larger species such as black locust and alder can be coppiced if they get too large. On shallow soil, it will be necessary to excavate a hole at least 1 meter deep and wide. In the worst cases, where shallow soil lies on top of hard gravelly sub-soil, the hole should be excavated to 1.5-2 meters. The hole should be back-filled with friable, humus-rich soil containing some stones (for drainage). Fresh animal manure should be avoided. Regular mulching with wood chips is extremely beneficial and highly recommended. Provided there is adequate drainage, walnut trees will be able to develop good root systems in this type of situation. On very difficult ground, an additional strategy would be to make a large raised bed over the filled-in hole. This can be up to 0.8 meters in height and three meters across, and can be retained with a stones, etc. This will provide extra depth for the taproots and get the trees off to a good start. Sandy soils are often low in nutrients required for walnut trees to grow well. However, providing the soil is reasonably deep, the situation can be improved by digging out large holes for each tree - similar to suggested above - and filling with humus-rich soil. Again, regular mulching with wood chips is beneficial and highly recommended.
Furthermore, it is noteworthy to mention two of the best nurse plants for walnut are Autumn-olive (Elaeagnus umbellate) and Goumi (Elaeagnus multiflora). Scientific literature has shown that when these species are planted together with walnut trees, growth is faster (80-140%) compared to walnut trees grown alone [see: Funk et al. (1979). Autumn-olive as a nurse plant for black walnut. Botanical Gazette, 140, S110-S114; and Clark et al. (2008). Early growth and form of common walnut (Juglans regia L.) in mixture with tree and shrub nurse species in southern England. Forestry, 81(5), 631-644].
Walnuts are usually wind-pollinated and often need a different cultivar (or species) in order to bear nuts. It is very important to choose cultivars whose plants would pollinate each other to maximize yield. However, some cultivars we offer are self-pollinating, or develop the ability to pollinate themselves

when there are no other walnut trees nearby. Other individuals can set fruits without pollination having occurred, a phenomenon known as apomixes (e.g., Loikos #1 and Loikos #63).
Walnut trees are mainly dichogamous plants (female flowers and anthers mature at different times) so it is necessary to plant flowering type I and II plants next to each other.
Protandrous is when the male flowers bloom first and the female flowers later, also called type I flowering.
Protogynous is when female flowers bloom first and then male flowers, also called type II flowering.
If the flowering time of the male and female flowers of the walnut tree coincides, it is self-fertile. Unfortunately, this happens very rarely, so it is necessary to plant flowering type I and II plants next to each other.

Walnut juglone

It is important to be aware that walnut that some walnuts produce a growth inhibitor - juglone - that can a detrimental effect on other plant species growing nearby. Juglone is produced in both the leaves and roots and has a negative effect on some plants. However, the problem is most prominent in the black walnut, while other walnut species have little or no detrimental effect on adjacent trees. Juglone's effect is relatively locally limited, but some plants have a high sensitivity to the poison and should be planted at an appropriate distance from walnut trees. However, many plants can tolerate, and even thrive, in the presence of juglone and are therefore suitable for co-planning with walnuts. A selection of plants reported to be tolerant are shown in the table below.

Shrubs		Trees	
Common name	Species Name	Common name	Species Name
Service Berry	Amelanchier sp.	Maple	Acer sp.
Barberry	Berberis sp.	Pawpaw	Asimina triloba
Hazelnut	Corylus sp.	Hickory	Carya sp.
Hibiscus	Hibiscus sp.	Hawthorn	Crataegus sp.
Sumac	Rhus sp.	Quince	Cydonia oblongata
Current	Ribes sp.	Persimmon	Diospyros virginiana
Rose	Rosa sp.	Mulberry	Morus sp.
Black raspberry	Rubus occidentalis	Apricots	Prunus armeniaca
Elderberry	Sambucus sp.	Sour cherry	Prunus cerasus
Lilac	Syringa sp.	Plum	Prunus domestica
Dogwood	Cornus sp.	Peach	Prunus persica
Goumi	Elaeagnus multiflora	Black Cherry	Prunus serotina
Autumn olive	Elaeagnus umbellata	Pears	Pyrus sp.
Russian olive	Elaeagnus angustifolia	Oak	Quercus sp.
Wolf willow	Elaeagnus commutata	Black Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia

Walnut diseases

Walnut blight is caused by the bacterium (Xanthomonas arboricola/campestris pv. juglandis). Walnut blight produces numerous tiny, angular, brown spots on the leaves. Walnut blight can cause die back of

young shoots, reduces the number of male flowers and may spoil the nuts. Walnut blight is more prevalent and spreads easier in wet conditions.
Walnut leaf blotch (Ophiognomonia leptostyla) is a fungus that causes brown spots and blotches seen most commonly on the leaf blades but can affect any green part of the tree, including petioles (leaf stalks), young shoots and nuts. Walnut leaf blotch can result in premature defoliation, sunken brown blotches on the outside of the nut and shriveling of nuts. Walnut leaf blotch usually occurs in summer and is favored by wet weather.
Walnut blight and blotch can be controlled to some degree by maintaining the soil pH above 6.0, cutting out and disposing affected leaves, shoots and nuts sterilizing tools, and avoiding excessive feeds of nitrogen. However, the best way to avoid or minimize disease problems is to select walnut cultivars with resistance to diseases.

Grafted varietal trees verses growing nuts from seed

Walnuts grown from seed collected locally have a reasonably good chance of eventually producing some nuts providing pollination requirements can be met. However, trees grown from seed may take as long as two decades to reach nut-bearing age, compared to six years or less for named (nut producing) cultivars propagated by grafting. In addition, the occasional production of nuts from trees grown from seed should not be confused with the more substantial and regular crops achievable with named cultivars. When the seed has not been collected locally but brought in for another climatic region, the outcome is even more uncertain.
Unfortunately, the confusion is perpetuated by some mainstream horticultural retailers and nurseries selling young seed-grown walnuts as 'nut' trees. While seed-grown plants will certainly grow into fine attractive trees valuable for timber regular production of high quality nuts is unlikely.
Unlike trees grown from nut, which are unreliable in terms of nut production and quality, and take many years to reach nut bearing age, the grafted trees we offer always come true to form and begin cropping at a relatively young age.
Descriptions of cultivar qualities were obtained from the most trustworthy literature available. However, we observe and evaluate each cultivar for cold hardiness and other qualities for at least one year before they are offered for sale. For some cultivars, general information is not available. We continuously observe cultivars to add or correct information in the cultivar descriptions.

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Carpathian Walnuts

Selected named cultivars of Juglans regia
The trees offered are not grown from nut but are propagated by grafting scions of known cultivars onto seedling rootstocks of Juglans regia and Juglans cinerea.

I. Ankst 16

Early ripening cultivar. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

II. Ankst 18

Early ripening cultivar. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

III. Ankst 42

Early ripening cultivar. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

IV. Astakhovski

Astakhovski has been grown in Siberia and should thus be suitable in regions with similar climatic conditions. Astakhovski can take up to 6-7 years before producing nuts and can grow quite large potentially reaching 10 m. Astakhovski has many advantages such as early ripening (mid-September), and the ability to easily tolerate temperatures down to -35°C. Furthermore, Astakhovski has double flowering, which is especially useful where there may be frost in the summer. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

V. Baldwin

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

VI. Broadview

Canadian cultivar that produces medium to large nut, ripening in mid-late season. In high rainfall areas, Broadview may be susceptible to walnut blight but is resistant to blotch. Reported cold hardiness down to -30°C in British Columbia, Canada. Broadview is mid-late leafing which will help to avoid late spring frosts. Broadview is protandrous (male flowers before female) but partially self-fertile and bears good crops at a very young age. Broadview is claimed to be apomictic (nut production without pollination). Heavy cropping habit with high and constant yields. The tree is small (suitable for planting in small gardens). The tree is grows with a moderate speed, but later growth decreases. The nuts of 'Broadview' are somewhat oblong and without many furrows. The weight of the nut is about 12 grams the kernel yield is about 47%. The taste is good. Available autumn 2025.

VII. Bryansk lateral

The cultivar Bryansk lateral originated in the vicinity of Bryansk, Russia. A characteristic feature is the powerful loading of the crop. The tree is compact and the crown is wide-pyramidal. The nuts weigh 12–13 grams and are amber in color with a unique nutty aroma. The kernel yield exceeds 50%. The maturation period is medium-late. Winter hardiness is claimed to be phenomenal. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

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VIII. Buccaneer

This is a Dutch cultivar from the town of Neer, in Limburg. The crown is steeply upright and open. Buccaneer has survived several winters here at our nursery in zone 4, however dieback has occurred and it is our impression it needs a slightly warmer environment closer to Uppsala or in zones 1-3. Buccaneer is not an early producer, but it is a very healthy cultivar and is highly resistant to both blight and blotch. The productivity of this tree is good. The tree is self-pollinating so a great choice if space is limited. The cultivar is also a very good cross-pollinator for a large group of other cultivars. Because the buds develop late, the tree escapes late spring frosts, which is very important in the Swedish climate. The nut is large, short, wide and well filled and has few grooves. The taste is very good. (Highly recommended in zones 1-3). Potted trees available.

IX. Cascade

Cascade originates from a selection made by William Schildgen from the Okanagan Valley, Loomis, Washington, U.S.A. being one progeny of a series of crosses of a Russian, perhaps Carpathian, walnut with a Manchurian type, probably Manregian, which was obtained from Oregon. Cascade has medium-large nuts with up to 56% kernel. Should be cold hardy at least in zone 4. They are fast growing early-producing trees with delicious, thin-shelled buttery flavored nuts. Self-fertile but needs a pollinizer for good nut production. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

X. F-26

F-26 is a drought-resistant and frost-resistant cultivar. The tree is vigorous, with a spherical crown. The nut type is mixed, the ratio of lateral buds to apical buds is 20/80%. The flowering type is protandric, male flowers bloom first. The first nuts are expected already in the 4th-5th year after planting. The fruits are medium-sized, with a kernel yield of more than 58%. A characteristic feature is 100% fruit germination, so there is no need to plant more of them for subsequent replanting. The yield is stably high. The fruits ripen late. The cold hardiness very good and should have no consequences at temperatures down to -34 °C. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XI. Giant (Velikan)

Russian cultivar claimed to withstand severe frosts, down to -35° C. The Giant cultivar is an improved version of the cultivar ‘Ideal’ and possesses identical indicators of frost resistance. The tree grows up to 5-9 meters, the crown is graceful and compact, which allows planting this walnut not only as a nut crop, but also as a decorative one. Giant begins to bear fruit fully at around six years of age. Giant is very resistant to diseases common to walnuts. The walnut fruit is quite large (average 3 cm.) and the kernel fills the shell very well with a weight of 30-35 g. Ripening time is medium-late. The tree is self-fertile. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XII. Idaho Carpatian

The Idaho cultivar is a selection from Parma, Idaho U.S.A. that produces large, sweet, good quality nuts. Bears young and heavy. Late blooming to escape spring frosts. Idaho is vigorous, productive and should be hardy at least to zone 4. Idaho is protogynous (female flowers before male). Partially self-fertile. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XIII. Cazacu

The Cazacu cultivar has dense wood, which gives it special resistance to winter frosts and extreme temperatures (no damage has been observed at -32 °C). The tree is strong-growing, with a highly rounded, dense crown. Nut production begins already after 4–5 years. The type of fruiting is apical, so

the fruits are formed on the tops of annual growth. Cazacu is protogynous (female flowers before male). The pistillate flowers bloom 6–7 days earlier than the staminate ones. This walnut cultivar can adapt to a wide cultivar of environments, but is somewhat sensitive to late spring frosts. Nuts are of medium size, weigh more than 12 grams and have a cylindrical shape. The shell is of medium thickness, dense and smooth. The kernel color is straw-yellow, fills the inside of the fruit well, makes up about 60% of the weight. Resistance to walnut leaf blotch is above average. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XIV. Kodrene

Kodrene is a cold hardy and late-flowering cultivar, observed to withstand -35 °C without serious damage. The tree is very durable, with a large crown. Buds open 4- 5 days later than in cultivars with medium bud development. Female flowers appear in buds that have not yet fully developed, thus partially protecting them from spring frosts. Nut type is mixed, with a ratio of lateral buds to apical buds of 30/70%. Nuts are large, conical, with a curvature, each weighing more than 17 g, kernel yield exceeds 50%. The shell is relatively thin and easily split. The kernel is brownish-yellow, and contains 69.5% fat. The cultivar is resistant to anthracnose and pests. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XV. Korenovskij (from Traupis) "Korenovsky"

Korenovskij was selected by the Russian breeder V.V. Stefanenko by cross-pollination of local large-fruited cultivars and the cultivar ‘Ideal’. Korenovskij is precocious (produces nuts at an early age) bearing nuts in clusters within 2-3 years. The trees are not tall, reaching a height of 3-3.5 meters, so a good choice if space is limited. Nuts are medium-large, with a thin shell and good taste. It is claimed that Korenovskij can bloom twice a year. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XVI. Lake

Lake originates from Bluffs, Illinois, U.S.A. and was selected from an open-pollinated seedling in 1950. Lake is late leafing, mid-season ripening, protogynous (female flower opens before male) and partially self-fertile. Lake is resistant to blight. Frost resistant down to -26 °C. Nuts are medium sized, with medium thick shells that crack easily and have very good quality. Lake will bear nuts in 4-5 years. Lake is a vigorous growing tree that matures to be 9-12 meters tall. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XVII. Loiko #1

Loiko #1 originates from Belarus and is a cultivar in the group of exceptionally hardy Carpathian walnuts that have done very well in our zone 4 nursery surviving temperatures down to -30° C. The buds develop somewhat early increasing the chances of damage by late spring frosts, however at our nursery we have observed that the trees recover quickly from any early growth damaged by frost. Small to medium sized nuts. Loiko #1 is apomictic and will produce nuts without pollination. Available autumn 2025.

XVIII. Loiko #63

Loiko #63 originates from Belarus and is a cultivar in the group of exceptionally hardy Carpathian walnuts that have done very well in our zone 4 nursery surviving temperatures below -30° C. The buds develop somewhat early increasing the chances of damage by late spring frosts, however at our nursery we have observed that the trees recover quickly from any early growth damaged by frost. Small to medium sized nuts. Loiko #63 is apomictic and will produce nuts without pollination. Available autumn 2025.

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XIX. Mars

Mars is a strong and disease-resistant cultivar from Czech Republic. The quality of the nut is very good, quite large, with a semi-hard shell that opens well. Because leafing and flowering occurs late, the tree escapes late spring frosts, which is very important in the Swedish climate. Mars is a self-fertile cultivar so a great choice if space is limited. Mars has persisted several winters here at our nursery in zone 4 although growth has been moderate so far. (Highly recommended in zones 1-3 and warmer regions in zone 4). Available autumn 2025.

XX. Memory of Minov (Pamiati Minova)

Memory of Minov was selected by Belarusian breeders and is claimed to be a very winter-hardy walnut cultivar, down to -37° C. Memory of Minov is a mid-season ripening large-fruited walnut. The tree is distinguished by a fast growth rate with the first harvest is obtained after 5-6 years. Memory of Minov is self-fertile so the flowering type is homogamous (the male and female flowers bloom synchronously) which ensures excellent pollination. Nuts have a thin shell (1 mm), and are flattened with slight ribbing. Average weight - 15 g, the largest - 18.5 g. Among the advantages, it is worth noting its high resistance to blotch (Ophiognomonia leptostyla). Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXI. Ovata

Ovata is characterized by high winter hardiness and frost resistance, which, along with late flowering dates, makes it suitable for growing in the most extreme climatic conditions. Ovata is a strong-growing cultivar. Nut production begins already after 3–4 years. It has partial laterality and loads well. The nuts are large, each weighing more than 19 g. The kernel yield exceeds 45%. The kernel is extracted completely, and has a pronounced taste. Ovata is protandrous (male flowers before female). Female flowers bloom late. Resistant to walnut blight. Ovata is reported to be cold hardy down to -32 °C. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXII. Philip Litra

The Philip Litra cultivar originated in the village of Izvor, Moldova. The tree is medium-sized. The shape of the crown is pyramidal. Nut production can start already on the 3rd to 4th year. Nuts are formed on lateral buds in close proximity to the terminal bud. Philip Litra is protandrous (male flowers before female). The fruits are large, more than 15 g. The yield of the kernel is 47%, which is rare for especially large nuts. The kernel is extracted completely and has a honey-yellow color. The taste is excellent. Philip Litra is reported to be cold hardy down to -32 °C. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXIII. Radik

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXIV. Rapid Levina (Skoroplodnyj)

Rapid Levina is a cultivar was selected specifically for central Russia by Voronezh Ivan Pavlovich Levin from a cross-pollination with the cultivar ‘Ideal’. Rapid Levina is claimed to withstand severe frosts, down to -38° C. Rapid Levina is a precocious cultivar (produces nuts at an early age). The trees are a relatively low-growing (4-5 m) cultivar, characterized by increased frost resistance. At prolonged negative temperatures (e.g. -35 °C), it may freeze, but after pruning, it quickly recovers. Fruits are thin, easily broken when squeezed with fingers. Nuts weigh on average 8-14 grams and have a good taste. Resistant to pests and diseases. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

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XXV. Ruby

A very hardy and drought-resistant cultivar with bright red nuts and a pleasant taste. The tree is strong-growing. The kernel has a light texture, a pleasant sweet taste and a natural red-purple color. Ruby is resistant to blight and blotch. Nuts are formed apically. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXVI. Samokhvalovitcskij - 1

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXVII. Samokhvalovitcskij - 2

A fast-growing frost-resistant cultivar of medium ripening. Bred by RUE "Institute of Horticulture" of the Republic of Belarus. The tree is vigerous, with an average crown density. The nut weigh between 8.3 and 10.5 g. The shell thickness is only 0.8 mm. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXVIII. Utah Giant

As the name suggests Utah Giant originates in Utah, USA. Very large nut of good quality with a sweet kernel that cracks out easily. Claimed to be hardy down to -34° C. Utah Giant has done very well in our zone 4 nursery demonstrating vigorous growth and surviving temperatures below -30° C. Available autumn 2025.

XXIX. VA-21

VA-21 is a cultivar that is reported to have high drought and frost resistance. The tree has a strong growth and has a pyramidal crown. Nuts are a fairly long, oval in shape, weighing 12-13 g. Cold hardiness is reported to be very good, down to -32°C without damage.

XXX. Vel 2-1

Late flowering cultivar. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXXI. Vel 6-9

Late flowering cultivar. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XXXII. Vel 7-9

Late flowering cultivar. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

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Heartnuts

Heartnuts (Juglans ailantifolia var. cordiformis) are a relative of the walnut native to Japan but were introduced into North America during the nineteenth century. They are less common then walnut in Europe but are hardier and more vigorous than walnuts, less prone to disease and more tolerant of wet climates. They have the potential to do very well in Sweden. Heartnuts have a reputation for being hard to shell, but all the cultivars we offer have improved shelling capability. Heartnuts grow into big trees so should be spaced at 8-12 meters. Nut production can begin as early as year 4, though more typically it is year 7 or 8. The trees offered are not grown from nut but are propagated by grafting scions of known cultivars onto seedling rootstocks of Juglans regia and Juglans mandshurica.

Selected named cultivars of Juglans ailantifolia var. cordiformis

I. Adelphia

Adelphia is a fairly new cultivar from Rutgers' research farm in New Jersey, U.S.A. The nut are large and ripen later than CW1 and Imshu. Excellent cracking quality. Adelphia has done very well in our zone 4 nursery demonstrating moderately vigorous growth and enduring winter temperatures below -30° C with no dieback. The buds develop somewhat early increasing the chances of damage by late spring frosts, however at our nursery we have observed that the trees recover quickly from any early growth damaged by frost. Protandrous (male flowers before female). Available autumn 2025.

II. Anneke

Dutch cultivar that was found in Groningen, large rounded nut with sharp point. Available autumn 2025.

III. Campbell CW1

Canadian cultivar. Produces medium to large nuts that tend to come out in halves. Vigorous grower with some resistance to late frosts. Protogynous (female flower opens before male). Available autumn 2025.

IV. Campbell CW3

Canadian cultivar. Is a heavy producer of medium sized nuts with later cropping than CW1. Protandrous (male flowers before female). Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

V. Fodermaier

Fodermaier originates from New York, U.S.A. and produces large nuts with good cracking ability, is a heavy cropper, and widely planted in North America. Later ripening than the Campbell nuts. Protandrous (male flowers before female). Available autumn 2025.

VI. Imshu

Imshu was bred from Schubert and unnamed Korean seedling. Imshu produces small to medium sized nuts, is a moderate to heavy producer. Excellent cracking quality and the nuts usually crack out whole. Some resistance to late frosts. Protogynous (female flower opens before male). May be partly self-fertile. Very vigorous grower. Available autumn 2025.

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VII. Kalmar

Kalmar is a Swedish cultivar originating from tree found growing in the park around Stagneliusskolan in Kalmar. Vigorous tree. Winter hardy but a little susceptible to late spring frosts. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

VIII. Schubert

Canadian/US cultivar. Parent of Imshu. Medium sized nut, moderate producer. Vigorous tree, good resistance to late frosts. May be partly self-fertile. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

IX. Simcoe

Large nut, good cracker, productive. Protandrous (male flowers before female). Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

X. Stealth

Medium sized nut, easy cracker. Protandrous (male flowers before female). Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

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Grey Walnut/Butternut

The grey walnut or butternut (Juglans cinerea) is indigenous in South-Canada and in central and eastern U.S.A. The grey walnut is the hardiest member of the walnut family. It is a robust tree with a height of about 18-20 m. The crown is wide, open and irregular and the leaves have a shallow wide serrate leaf margin, with a dark green color. The fruit is hanging in bunches of 3-5 nuts together, the nut is ovoid with a length of about 4-6 cm. The shell is thick, irregular and has a sharp pointed surface, and due to the thickness of the shell the nut is difficult to crack in two split halves. We offer improved cultivars that have been selected for their thinner shells (thus easier and improved cracking) and larger percentage of kernel. The trees offered are not grown from nut but are propagated by grafting scions of known cultivars onto seedling rootstocks of Juglans regia and Juglans cinerea.

Selected named cultivars of Juglans cinerea

I. Beckwith

Beckwith originated in Ohio, U.S.A. The medium size nut cracks out halves that extract easily from the shell. Beckwith is a moderately vigorous tree with prolific annual crops. Resistant to walnut leaf blotch. Available autumn 2025.

II. Chamberlin

Chamberlin originates from the Chamberlin Corners area in New York, U.S.A. The nuts are medium sized, are easy to crack and have a good flavor. Available autumn 2025.

III. Kenworthy

Kenworthy originated in Wisconsin, USA. Good taste, easy cracking nut. The large nut has higher kernel content as its cousin Beckwith. Resistant to walnut leaf blotch. Available autumn 2025.

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Black Walnut

The black walnut (Juglans nigra) is originating from central-east USA and from South-east Canada. It has been cultivated for a long time in Europe, where it is now naturalized. It is a robust tree with a height of about 20-30 meters, the crown is rounded oblong, free-standing and is very widely branched. The nuts are hanging single or together in bunches of 2-3 nuts. The fruit is almost circular and about 4-5 cm long and wide. In general, black walnut is cold hardy down to -35° C, but hardiness will depend on the cultivar. Cultivars we offer have been selected for their cracking quality and ability to ripen nuts well in cooler climates.
The trees offered are not grown from nut but are propagated by grafting scions of known cultivars onto seedling rootstocks of Juglans regia, Juglans cinerea and Juglans nigra.

Selected named cultivars of Juglans nigra

I. Bicentennial

Bicentennial originates from a controlled cross (Weschcke × Rohwer) made in 1945 in Potsdam, New York, U.S.A. and was introduced in 1976. As a black walnut cultivar, Bicentennial should be hardy to zone 4, or maybe even 5. Bicentennial is a very productive cultivar with well-filled large nuts that crack well. Available autumn 2025.

II. Emma K

Emma K originates from Illinois, U.S.A. and was a native selection found by J.C. McDaniel, University of Illinois, in the 1960's. Emma K is a productive, midseason ripening, annual heavy bearing cultivar. It has a very thin shell and the largest percentage of kernel of any of our black walnut selections. The nut is oval, medium size and often cracks out half kernels. As a black walnut cultivar, Emma K should be hardy to zone 4 or maybe even 5. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

III. Sparks 147

Sparks 147 originates from a seedling selection made by Archie Sparks of Beaver, Iowa, U.S.A. Produces medium sized, elliptical nuts that weigh around 17 grams and yields 38% kernel. Nut strongly pointed on both ends but basal point distinctively long, with a very thin shell. Bears on lateral branches. Midseason ripening. As a black walnut cultivar, Sparks 147 should be hardy to zone 4, or maybe even 5. Available autumn 2025.

IV. Sparrow

Sparrow originates from a native selection made in 1935 by Harry C. Sparrow of Lomax, Illinios, U.S.A. Sparrow produces medium-sized, widely depressed obovate nuts that weigh around 17 grams and produces 29% kernel. The shell is very thin and easily removed. Protandrous flowering. Early ripening. Good resistance to anthracnose. As a black walnut cultivar, Sparrow should be hardy to zone 4, or maybe even 5. Available autumn 2025.

V. Stabler

Stabler originates from a native selection made in 1911 by Henry Stabler of Sandy Springs, Maryland, U.S.A. Stabler produces medium-sized, widely ovate nuts that weigh around 16 grams and yields 31%

kernel. Some nuts develop with a single lobe. Protogynous flowering. Midseason ripening. As a black walnut cultivar, Stabler should be hardy to zone 4, or maybe even 5. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

VI. Thomas

Thomas originates in Pennsylvania, USA and was selected because of the large, high quality of the nuts. Thomas was first grafted in 1885 and is still a popular cultivar. Thomas is one of the black walnut cultivars that cracks reasonably well and has a large kernel. As a black walnut Thomas should be hardy to zone 4 and maybe even 5. The nuts ripen mid-season. The fruit is almost circular and about 4-5 cm long and wide. Thomas is self-fertile. It is a moderate bearer, sometimes biennial alternating with heavy and lighter crops. Very late leafing and late flowering which helps avoid late spring frosts. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

WALNUT

Hybrid walnut cultivars

It is well known that walnut (Juglans regia) cultivars can produce high quality nuts while Manchurian (J. mandshurica), grey (J. cinerea) or black (J. nigra) usually have characteristics that makes them underrated: thick-shelled nuts with very small kernels that are very difficult to extract. However, they have the advantage of being resistance to cold and diseases. Cultivars of walnut hybrids can produce nuts similar in many characteristics to Carpathian walnut (Juglans regia) but also impart superior walnut blight resistance, drought tolerance, vigorous growth, and cold tolerance. In fact, some hybrid walnut cultivars are reported to withstand temperatures of -40 °C. The trees offered are not grown from nut but are propagated by grafting scions of known cultivars onto seedling rootstocks.

Selected named cultivars of Juglans regia x ailanthifolia/cinerea/mandshurica/nigra

VII. GS 17-4 (Juglans regia x ailanthifolia)

The cultivar GS 17-4 is a hybrid of walnut and heartnut (Juglans regia x ailanthifolia) with nuts having characteristics of walnut (Juglans regia) and a weight of 8-12 grams and kernel yield reaching about 45%. Resistant to cold and diseases. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

VIII. G-1 (Juglans regia x cinerea)

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

IX. GP 99-6 (Juglans regia x cinerea)

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

X. GM 1-7 (Juglans regia x mandshurica)

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XI. GM 5-2 (Juglans regia x mandshurica)

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XII. GM 6-8 (Juglans regia x mandshurica)

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XIII. GM 97-3 (Juglans regia x mandshurica)

The cultivar GM 97-3 is a hybrid of walnut and Manchurian walnut (Juglans regia x mandshurica) with nuts having characteristics of walnut (Juglans regia) and a weight of 8-10 grams and kernel yield reaching about 40%. Very resistant to cold and diseases. Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

XIV. Dooley 69E (Juglans regia x nigra)

Dooley 69E was selected by Ken Dooley from Marion (Indiana, USA) and is one of the better hybrid walnut trees (Juglans regia x nigra). The nuts are medium in size, round and very well filled with kernel yield reaching 55-60%. Dooley 69E is cold hardy down to -36 °C. Unlike many other black walnut hybrids, its nuts have such thin shells that they can be crushed with your fingers. Dooley 69E is very productive and produce nuts similar in many characteristics to walnut but there is enough J. nigra genes to impart superior walnut blight resistance, drought tolerance, vigorous growth, and cold tolerance. Taste is a little more robust than walnut and it has a notable caramel flavor. Very nice. Dooley 69E is protandrous (male flowers before female). Available autumn 2025.

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XV. GN 0-3 (Juglans regia x nigra)

Under testing with earliest availability 2026.

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