**Corylus colurna** - Turkish Filbert (*Betulaceae*)

*Corylus colurna* is a large shade tree noted for bold texture, pyramidal form, ornamental winter bark/stems/catkins, dense shade from dark green shiny foliage, and urban tolerance. Turkish Filbert is underutilized in modern landscapes. It's an excellent substitute for other pyramidal-shaped shade trees such as Pin Oak or Littleleaf Linden.

### FEATURES

**Form**
- large shade tree
- maturing at about 60’ tall x 30’ wide
- upright pyramidal growth habit
- medium growth rate

**Culture**
- full sun to partial sun
- very urban stress tolerant, including adaptability to heat, drought, pollution, poor soils, compacted soils, dry soils, and soils of various pH
- propagated primarily by seeds but also by rooted stem cuttings
- Birch Family, with virtually no disease or pest problems, except for occasional skeletonizing of the foliage by Japanese beetles
- moderately available in B&B form

**Foliage**
- alternate, dense, shiny dark green, thick, and clean throughout the summer
- broadly ovate to broadly obovate, to 6” long x 5” wide, with a cordate base, an acute apex, and with margins doubly serrated and somewhat incised
- autumn color is yellowish green and ornamentally ineffective

**Flowers**
- monoecious, with the prominently pendulous male catkins being quite obvious in winter, and swelling from 1-4” in length in Mar. and swaying in the breezes of early spring
- female flowers occur at the same time, but are very small and ornamentally inconspicuous

**Fruits**
- 0.5” diameter nuts occur in clusters and are covered with an incised husk-like involucre, maturing in early autumn and attracting squirrels
- cross-pollination between different trees is needed for good fruit set

**Twigs**
- buds are pronounced on the stems, which are often fissured or corky by their second year of growth, with a bold texture on young branches

**Trunk**
- the light brown, flaky outer bark is quite attractive when viewed up-close in winter, while the inner bark is slightly orange but often unnoticed
- trees maintain a strong central leader to maturity, with symmetrical branching that forms a broadly pyramidal outline
- some specimens are allowed to branch to the ground, but most trees are limbed up with maturity to yield a stately shade tree character

### USAGE

**Function**
- shade, focal point, specimen, or winter accent tree

**Texture**
- bold texture in foliage and when bare (medium texture when in flower)
- thick density in foliage and when bare

**Assets**
- very urban tolerant, especially to drought, poor soils, and alkaline pH soils
- large shade tree that casts a dense shade, having dense, dark green, attractive foliage
- ornamental bark, corky stems, pendulous catkins, and bold symmetrical pyramidal outline create attractive features in winter
- disease- and generally pest-free (except for Japanese beetle), with clean foliage

**Liabilities**
- poor autumn color
- turfgrass will thin or die out under mature trees due to dense shade
- if Japanese beetles are common in the area, they will enjoy munching on this tree

**Habitat**
- Zones 4 to 7
- Native to Turkey and Southeastern Europe

### SELECTIONS

**Alternates**
- very urban tolerant shade trees (*Acer x freemanii, Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Ginkgo biloba, Gleditsia triacanthos*, etc.)
- large pyramidal trees that are deciduous (*Alnus glutinosa, Liquidambar styraciflua, Quercus palustris, Taxodium distichum, Tilia cordata*, etc.)
- large trees with winter character (*Alnus glutinosa, Betula nigra, Betula papyrifera, Gymnocladus dioicus, Metasequoia glyptostroboides, Zelkova serrata*, etc.)

**Cultivars – Variants – Related species**
- species form is practically the only form available