

Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II

Botanical Name: *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'

Common Name: Harry Lauder's walking stick

Family Name: Betulaceae - birch family

General Description: *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' is a unique cultivar of European filbert selected for its twisted, contorted branching pattern. It is a large deciduous shrub that grows well in full sun to partial shade in average soils. Its twisted character is especially delightful in winter when the contorted bare stems are most evident. However, it is a grafted plant so care must be taken to prune out any growth from the understock as the vigorous growth from this region will not have twisted stems and can easily overtake the whole plant.

Zone: 4-8

Resources Consulted:

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Champaign: Stipes, 2009. Print.

Creator: Julia Fitzpatrick-Cooper, Professor, College of DuPage

Creation Date: 2014

Keywords/Tags: Betulaceae, *Corylus avellana*, contorta, deciduous, shrub



Whole plant/Habit:

- Description: *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' is easily recognizable due to its twisted, contorted stems. It is a large, coarse shrub easily reaching 8 – 10 foot.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: March 8, 2011
- Image File Name: h_l_walkingstick_1260653.png



Branch/Twig:

- Description: The stand out feature of Harry Lauder's walking stick is, of course, the curly stems which are frequently collected for use in floral arrangements.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: March 8, 2011
- Image File Name: h_l_walkingstick_1260654.png



Bud:

- Description: The plump imbricate buds are arranged alternate on the highly lenticelled stems.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 13, 2011
- Image File Name: h_l_walkingstick_1280051.png



Flower:

- Description: Plants in the genus *Corylus* are monoecious. They produce separate male and female flowers on the same plant. The catkins are fully formed by autumn but will not open until late winter or early spring. The female flowers (on left in this image) are inconspicuous, consisting of only the red styles of the pistils protruding from the bud scales. The male catkins (on right in this image) are pendulous, elongate and visible during winter.
- NOTE: The images in this photo are of *Corylus americana*.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: March 31, 2011
- Image File Name: american_hazlenut_1270466s.png



Flower:

- Description: The male catkins of *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' hang in clusters of 3. In late winter to early spring the brown catkins elongate and turn yellow with pollen. Although the straight species produces edible nuts, this cultivar rarely, if ever, produces fruits.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: April 13, 2011
- Image File Name: h_l_walkingstick_1280053.png



Special ID feature(s):

- Description: The twisted, curly stems will be the best identification feature. *Salix matsudana* 'Tortuosa' called corkscrew willow, also has twisted stems; but its leaves and buds look very different from *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'. Once you see both plants you will not get them confused!
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: July 28, 2012
- Image File Name: h_l_walkingstick_2768.png