



NITKA™ Hazelnut



NITKA was grown and evaluated at Z's Nutty Ridge LLC Orchard, Cortland County, New York.

NITKA is a medium to sized nut. NITKA is extremely hardy in USDA zone 5a, without any catkin or bud die back noted after 14 years in leaf. NITKA has shown no signs of Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) to date and therefore is very resistant if not completely immune.

Horticultural Characteristics

Tree growth and habit. NITKA trees have an upright, oval growth habit when grown in bush form. Mature height as a bush is 10 to 12 feet. NITKA is currently being grown and evaluated in tree form. The bush suckers freely at Z's Nutty Ridge LLC.

Yield and efficiency. NITKA yields are currently for very tight 6 foot in row spacing and yield is 5.0 to 7.2 pounds per year. In bush form with 510 trees per acre this has a potential yield of 2550 to 3672 pounds per acre with a similarly yielding pollinator. Keep in mind that nutrition has been far from ideal. Tree form yields yet to be determined.

Harvest time. In Central New York the nuts are ready for picking the last week in August or first week of September. The nuts do fall freely from the tree but hasn't been harvested in this manner. Nut clusters are typically 2 to 5 nuts.

Nut and kernel quality. NITKA nuts are well filled, very round and smooth, with a very thin shell that you can crack in your hand for excellent in shell

sales. Pellicle is very thin as shown in Figure # 2 and there is no need for blanching. If the pellicle needs to be removed, due to traditional needs required by the thick woody European pellicles, approximately 75% to 85% of the pellicle is removed after blanching. There are few poorly filled nuts at 3.0% and blanks at 6.0%. Nut weight averages around 1.1 grams with kernel percentage on average 52% to 55%.

Pest tolerance. A major attribute of this cultivar is its resistance to EFB with the catkins cold and wind tolerance. Resistance to Big bud mite has not been determined as its presence in Z's Nutty Ridge Orchards has been minor to date.

Flowering characteristics. Cold hardy flowers open early and remain viable for up to six weeks during pollen shed.

Pollen shed. NITKA is a prolific cold hardy pollinizer with long pollen shed.



Figure # 1. – NITKA bush growth habit



Figure # 2. NITKA™ nuts.