

Medium-sized 'Melchior' forms a tree with a regularly shaped, broadly pyramidal to broadly ovoid crown. Height about 6-8 m. The twigs are grey-brown and flake slightly after a few years. The older bark is covered with cork and also flakes off. The broad inverted ovoid leaves are purplish-red when unfurling and turn dark green in summer, sometimes with a slightly purple tinge. Even before the leaves emerge, the gracefully drooping male catkins appear. The female flowers are small and inconspicuous. These can develop into clusters of edible (hazel) nuts. Each nut is enclosed in a sheath of strongly fringed and incised bracts, forming an attractive and whimsical whole.

*Corylus ×columnoides* is the hybrid created from a cross between *Corylus avellana* and *C. columna*. The tree has most of the characteristics of *C. columna*, for example, it is tree-shaped, has cork on the bark and the fruit clusters are also whimsical. It is a low-demanding, heat-loving tree, preferring calcareous soil. Because of its regular shape, it is very suitable as avenue tree.