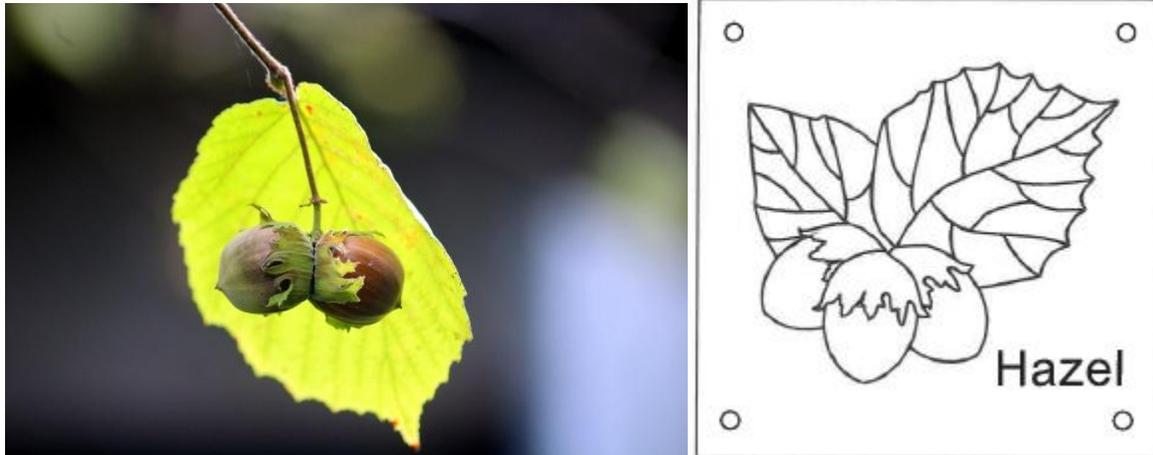


Hazel

(Corylus avellana)



The hazel tree is a woodland wonder, loved for its tasty nuts and twisty, flexible branches. A favourite of dormice and foragers alike, it's also steeped in folklore—ancient Celts believed hazel trees held the secrets of wisdom and inspiration. Its bendy stems were used for wattle fencing and magical divining rods. Flowering in late winter, hazel is one of the first signs of spring, supporting biodiversity and enriching hedgerows with beauty, history, and life.

Hazel

Extended Facts

- Hazel is a traditional coppiced species used for fencing, hurdles and weaving.
- It produces catkins ('lambs' tails') in late winter and hazelnuts in autumn.
- Hazelnuts support wildlife including dormice, jays and squirrels.

Curriculum-Linked Activities

- Catkin observation diary to track seasonal change.
- Hazelnut forensics: identify which animals opened different shells.
- Weaving craft using coppiced hazel rods.
- Forestry Commission ([OWL Scotland](#)) Tree Stories page 18

Useful Weblinks

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/a-z-of-british-trees/hazel/>

