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Corylus maxima

[Synonyms : *Corylus arborescens*, *Corylus avellana* var. *lamberti*, *Corylus avellana* var. *tubulosa*, *Corylus intermedia*, *Corylus rubra*, *Corylus tubulosa*]

FILBERT (English, German) is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to south-eastern Europe it has yellow catkins.

It is also known as *Aveline* (French), *Avellana de Lambert* (Spanish), *Avellano de Lambert* (Spanish), *Coudrier de Lambert* (French), *Filberthassel* (Swedish), *Filberthasselnöt* (Swedish), *Funduk* (Russian), Giant filbert, Giant hazel, Hazel, *Isopähkinäpensas* (Finnish), Kentish cob, *Korilo maksimuma* (Esperanto), *Lambert findiği* (Turkish), *Lamberthasel* (German), *Lamberthassel* (Swedish), *Lambertnuss* (German), Lambert's filbert, *Lamberts-Hasel* (German), *Lambertsnød* (Danish), *Lambertsnoot* (Dutch), *Lambertsnuss* (German), *Lammernoot* (Dutch), *Lammertjesnoot* (Dutch), *Langbartshasel* (German), *Leshchina krupnaia* (Russian), *Líska největší* (Czech), *Lombardskii oreshnik* (Russian), *Mandschurische Hasel* (German), *Nocciolo di Dalmazia* (Italian), *Nocciuolo Lopima* (Italian), *Noisetier tubuleux* (French), *Noisette de Lombardie* (French), *Ou zhou zhen* (Chinese), *Seiyon hashibami* (Japanese), *Sibirische Haselnuss* (German), and *Storfrugt hassel* (Danish): and in flower language is said to be a symbol of reconciliation.

Hard-shelled brown filbert nuts are larger and longer than those on the hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and the kernel has a thin red or white skin.

Maxima is derived from Latin *magnus* (great, large) meaning 'largest' with reference to the fruit.

The nuts are referred to by William Shakespeare (1564-1616), the famous English playwright and poet. in *The Tempest*, the semi-human Caliban promises

.....I'll bring thee
To clustering filberts, and sometimes I'll get thee
Young scamels from the rock.

Some authorities believe filbert was introduced to Britain in 1759: but others think it appeared far, far earlier (which may well be supported by the fact that Shakespearean audiences must have been familiar with them for the reference to them to be appreciated).