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Juglans major

[Synonyms : *Juglans arizonica*, *Juglans elaeopyren*, *Juglans microcarpa* var. *major*, *Juglans neomexicana*, *Juglans rupestris* var. *major*, *Juglans torreyi*]

LITTLE WALNUT is a deciduous tree. Native to south-western North America it has small, hard and thick-shelled fruit.

It is also known as Arizona black walnut, Arizona walnut, Mexican walnut, Nogal, Walnut, and Western walnut.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Major is derived from Latin *maior* (greater) meaning ‘greater, bigger or larger’.

The nuts provided food for several North American Indian tribes including the Hualapai and the Navajo Indians. Different parts of the Apache tribe enjoyed the nuts, using them as an ingredient in various dishes and storing them for Winter use. Apart from adding the nut meat to other ingredients or using the nuts in Winter the Yavapai Indians also made a drink with the nut juice.

Dyes in different shades of brown were obtained from young twigs or the nut shells by the Navajo Indians, and some of the Apache made a black dye by soaking the outside of the shells.

The trees were used by some of the North American Apache Indians to make their traditional dome-shaped hunting lodges.

The nuts (which can be eaten raw or cooked) yield an edible oil but it does have the drawback of going rancid quickly.

It is not only humans that relish the fruit. Both birds and squirrels feed on them (and the latter enjoy them so much that they will eat them immediately instead of hiding them).

Authorities note that the heavy and durable, dark brown wood, of which there is only a limited supply, is suitable for veneering and making furniture, as well as for gunstocks and fenceposts.

Medicinally, in Mexico locally the leaves have provided an astringent and tonic.