



Saving the Planet: Woody Agriculture & Hybrid Hazelnuts

Instructor: [Andrew Fiori](#)

In this 12 hour course over 4 consecutive Saturday mornings, you will learn:

Woody Agriculture theory, hazel biology/genetics, breeding techniques, field establishment/management, propagation, harvest and marketing. The class will visit a newly planted hybrid hazel planting at the teacher's home in Bowdoinham.

Why Woody Agriculture? Woody Agriculture, as opposed to conventional agriculture whose focus is the production of annual food crops, is concerned with the production of food staples from woody perennial plants. In the spirit of our New World ancestors who took wild grass and made maize, and an increasing number of farmers and nurseryman, along with several large universities, are at the forefront of hybridizing and selecting hazelnuts for commercial production in the cold temperate climates of the north-eastern United States. For the first time in history, hazelnuts are poised to be widely adopted into the mainstream food supply. This is not solely a luxury crop in the making of confectionery, but more importantly, an essential ingredient in a wide variety of highly nutritious foodstuffs; a raw resource whose diversity of use easily rivals the mighty soybean. Its high oil content, the chemical equivalent of olive oil, makes it a prime candidate for use in making biodiesel of which bi-product, "cake," is a valuable, high-protein animal feed. Wood agriculture is sustainable agriculture at its best, and it is the perennial nature of hybrid hazelnuts which so many environmental benefits can be derived. This is a crop that has been designed from the very outset to address problems such as soil erosion, ground water pollution, energy consumption/shortage, and, yes, global warming. Whether your passion is for market farming or self-sufficient living, there is something for everyone in this increasingly popular and environmentally friendly crop.

Required Supplies List: A notebook and pen would be helpful

Minimum Class Size: 5
Maximum Class Size: 10

Course Dates & Times: Saturday, October 8th, 9am to 12pm
Saturday, October 15th, 9am to 12pm
Saturday, October 22nd, 9am to 12pm
Saturday, October 29th, 9am to 12pm

Tuition Course Price: \$140 per person
Materials: \$0 per person
Total Course Price: \$140 per person

Deposit due upon registration: \$75

Registration Deadline: Saturday, October 1st, 2011
Tuition Balance Due Deadline: Monday, October 3rd, 2011

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