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Hazelnut Pollinizer "Felix"

EATERN FILBERT Blight (EFB), caused by the fungus Anisogramma anomala, poses a serious threat and imposes a significant added cost to hazelnut production in the Willamette Valley, which produces the majority of US hazelnuts. The hazelnut pollinizer developed at Oregon State, named 'Felix,' is from a cross of 'OSU 384.095X'Delta.' Felix's advantage is in its resistance to EFB as well as infrequent nut defects. The trees are vigorous with an upright-spreading growth habit, and the trees are larger than Jefferson. They have similar nut maturation times as Barcelona, a smaller nut yield per tree, but a greater nut yield efficiency. Felix's good quality nuts have good texture and flavor, and thus can be cracked and sold on the kernel market, in addition to their in shell form.

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

Felix carries the 'Gasway' gene, giving it resistance to EFB, with the exception of a few cases of small cankers under high disease pressure. Additionally, Felix is resistant to bud mite (primarily Phytoptus avellanae Nal.) and has very few nut defects. Felix's well-filled nuts are 50% kernel by weight. As a result, the Felix pollinizer exhibits a high resistance to disease as well as high nut yield efficiency without compromising for nut quality.

STATUS

A U.S. Plant Patent PP24973



Applications

- Blanched kernel market
- 'Felix' is a recommended pollinizer for 'Jefferson'
- 'Felix' is also a compatible pollinizer for 'Wepster', 'Dorris' and 'Yamhill'

Features & Benefits

- Good quality, texture, flavor, and kernel composition merit a premium price
- Resistance to bud mite, EFB, and low incidence of kernel mold

About the Principal Investigators



SHAWN MEHLENBACHER

(1) Academic/Professional: Shawn Mehlenbacher earned his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding at Cornell University in 1982 after graduating from Pennsylvania State University in 1978 with a B.S. in Horticulture. Mehlenbacher has held tree crop breeding responsibilities at Oregon State University Department of Horticulture since 1986, beginning as an Assistant Professor and since 2000 serving as an Oregon Hazelnut Industry Professor.

(2) Research: Shawn Mehlenbacher's research consists of plant breeding and genetics. His efforts are in identifying sources of resistance to eastern filbert blight (EFB) as well as DNA markers linked to new sources of resistance. This in turn enables him to develop new cultivars for Oregon's hazelnut industry with a focus on a resistance to EFB and suitability for the kernel market.

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