The first European settlers to the Willamette Valley found native hazelnuts growing here. George Dorris established Oregon's first commercial hazelnut orchard in the early 1900s, in Lane County. Over the years, he established a dozen more orchards and an influential hazelnut nursery. Before the advent of eastern filbert blight, a serious disease, about half the hazelnut trees producing in the Willamette Valley came from Dorris nursery stock.

Hazelnuts have a very limited growing range worldwide. The Willamette Valley's climate supports profitable production. Oregon follows Turkey, Italy, Spain, and Azerbaijan in production, with about 2% of the world's supply. Although Oregon specializes in large-kernel nuts for the in-shell market, a significant portion of the crop is sold to food manufacturers or retailers; about half is exported. Hazelnut kernels are processed into chopped nuts, nut paste, and nut flour. Crop failures in other production regions, or in other nut crops, can dramatically increase demand for Oregon hazelnuts.

About half the hazelnuts consumed in the United States are imported as blanched kernels, while 25%–50% of Oregon's crop is exported as raw nuts. Oregon's hazelnuts are high quality. The Ennis variety produces large kernels valued for the lucrative in-shell market, but it is susceptible to eastern filbert blight.
Oregon Hazelnuts

Cooperative research and educational outreach have benefited the hazelnut industry in the following ways:

- Developed and released hazelnuts resistant to eastern filbert blight, including strains large enough for in-shell sales.
- Working to develop a blight-resistant contorted filbert, an ornamental. Once released, this will limit spread of the disease through ornamentals. $ ♦
- Identified cultural and biological ways to manage eastern filbert blight, enabling reductions in pesticide use. $ ♦
- Accessed technology that permits rapid propagation of promising new blight-resistant varieties. $ ♦
- Created hardier trees through rootstock research, extending the range of the hazelnut production area. $ ♦
- Increased production efficiency and yields through improved pruning practices. $ ♦
- Refined integrated pest management for the four main hazelnut pests, and offered training to growers. As a result, growers reduced pesticide applications for filbert aphids and filbertworms by more than 90%. $ ♦

Benefits key

$ Economic benefit
♦ Environmental benefit
♣ Social benefit

Oregon Hazelnuts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family farms</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres harvested</td>
<td>28,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tons produced</td>
<td>21,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of sales</td>
<td>$31.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon’s national ranking</td>
<td>#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon’s global ranking</td>
<td>#5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health and nutrition benefits:
Fiber, vitamins B6 and E, minerals; free of saturated fat and cholesterol

Notes

Farm Receipts

- $>4.5 million
- $2.0–3.0 million
- <$1.5 million

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