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<http://www.nebraskacentrepreneur.com/>

Growing Nuts in Nebraska

Hundreds of farmers, both large and small grow nut crops in Nebraska. Black walnuts and pecans are favorites, but chestnut and hickory are specialty crops that can also bring income to landowners. The Nebraska Nut Growers Association (NeNGA) and University of Nebraska–Lincoln have worked together for 34 years in the cultivation of high-quality cultivar nut trees.

Become a Grower - By using a portion of your rural acreage for nut production, you can become one of Nebraska's growers.

Are you and your acreage a good choice for growing nuts?

- The preferred geographic location is in the southeastern portion of Nebraska.
- Your acreage should have deep and well-drained soils without a restricting layer
- Irrigation will be needed during establishment and growing seasons to encourage a bountiful crop. Drip irrigation is often used.
- Weed control will be essential in your orchard.
- Deer and rodents will need to be controlled.
- The ideal acreage has gently rolling topography for safety, drainage, and ease of using equipment.



Membership in NeNGA provides many benefits in the growing of high quality nut trees by offering education in the classroom, field seminars where you learn to graft trees, nut evaluations and professional assistance.

Membership in the growers Heartland Nuts 'N More cooperative will provide you with a place to market your crop -- additional benefits include support from peers and access to harvesting and processing equipment.

Seedling Cost-Share Program - Current and prospective growers interested in increasing their acreage in nut trees have the opportunity to participate in a growers cost-share program.

Through this program, 50 percent of the cost of seedlings can be reimbursed to growers who wish to expand or create new orchards. UNL, Heartland Nuts 'N More, NeNGA, USDA National Agroforestry Center and the Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium have obtained grant funds for this program. Heartland Nuts 'N More cooperative is administering the grant. The cost of pre-grafted stock, which is available from nurseries, is not covered under this program.

Membership in the Heartland Nuts 'N More or NeNGA is not required to participate in this cost-share program.

Learn more about the cost-share program at one of the upcoming programs or by contacting Heartland Nuts 'N More.

“Grow More Nuts in Nebraska?” Webinar, Feb. 9 - Heartland Nuts 'N More and the Nebraska Forest Service are presenting a webinar, “Grow More Nuts in Nebraska?” on Thursday, Feb. 9, 7-8 p.m. to introduce eastern Nebraska acreage owners to the possibilities of growing nuts as a crop. This Internet program requires no special computer equipment; the only requirements are an internet connection (not dial-up). The program will include interviews and discussion with Nebraska growers about their orchards. Learn the very basics of growing nuts.

Register at <http://marketplace.unl.edu/extension>. There is a nominal \$1 registration fee. For more information about the webinar, contact Heartland Nuts 'N More.

“Nut Orchard Planning, Planting, Care, and Harvesting” Seminar, Feb. 23 - NeNGA & Heartland Nuts 'N More are sponsoring an in-depth seminar, “Nut Orchard Planning, Planting, Care, and Harvesting” on Thursday, February 23, 7–9 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln. You may register at <http://marketplace.unl.edu/extension> (there is a nominal \$1 registration fee) or by calling 402-788-2717. No cost at the door. If you want to plant just a couple nut trees or an orchard, you will find this seminar informative.

Everyone has different expectations and goals when planting nut tree seedlings. This seminar will introduce you to most aspects of what it takes to accomplish your goals and expectations. There will be professional growers on hand to answer your questions.

Topics include:

- Planning phase will cover setting realistic goals, understanding an orchard environment, and the tasks to meet your goals so you will be successful.
- Planting phase will cover planting consideration and seedling selections.
- Caring phase will cover tasks required to bring a seedling to a productive producing nut tree.
- Harvesting tasks will cover harvesting techniques, processing, and marketing your nuts.
- A seedling cost-share program will also be introduced.

For more information:

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