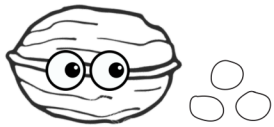


Propagation Process

- 1 *optional
Lightly clean the outside of a good batch of walnuts with a solution of 5% bleach to water solution or a 1/3 cup of hydrogen peroxide to 1 gallon of water. This helps disinfect the walnuts from any pathogens on the exterior of the shell.
- 2 Pre-moisten an inert media (like perlite, vermicullite, or sand) to a moisture level similar to a wrung-out sponge.
- 3 Fill a properly labeled resealable bag with walnuts and enough media to fill most empty space between nuts.



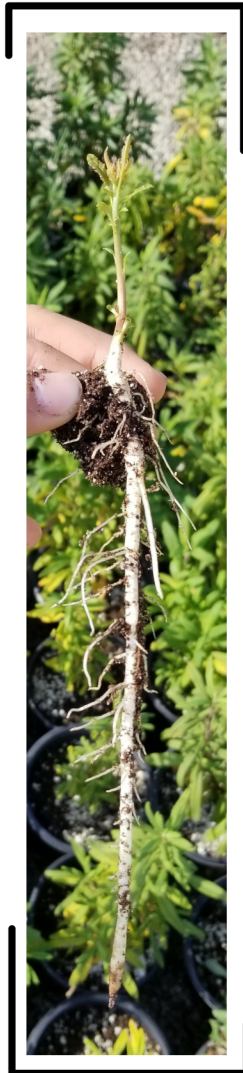
- 4 Place your bags in a refrigerator. Maintain the walnuts to a temperature around 50° F for up to 3-4 months. Regularly check and correct the moisture in the media and plant walnuts as they begin to germinate.

plant a walnut tree



Walnuts are strong and resilient trees, but their seedlings are a bit more vulnerable until they get established.

They do not like for their long taproot to be disturbed, so some people plant germinating walnuts directly in the ground where they want their trees to thrive!



If you would like to grow out walnuts in a pot before you plant them in their final home, try to find long pots that can accommodate their roots. Tree pots or deepots are great and frequently used! In a pinch, milk cartons work well too! If you can afford to buy tree pots, look for options that encourage "air pruning" to minimize the chance that a taproot will become rootbound.

No matter the option, keep your walnut saplings moist as they get grow and get established. Once planted and fully grown, your walnuts should be fine with only rainfall, but they also appreciate being watered a few times during particularly dry summers!

cheers to walnut stewardship!

How to Collect and Grow California Black Walnuts (*Juglans californica*)



a field note on walnut stewardship

California Black Walnuts are a threatened species that are essential to providing needed shelter and food for many fellow species.

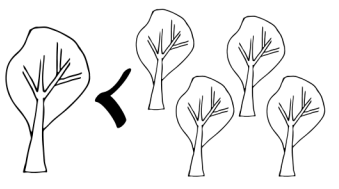


Collecting walnuts is a sensitive act. We do not want to encourage their exploitation, and we must ensure that walnuts remain available for natural sprouting and to sustain the life web.

Never collect more than 5-10% of the available walnuts you see in any given tree.



When collecting any seed, always aim for **DIVERSITY**



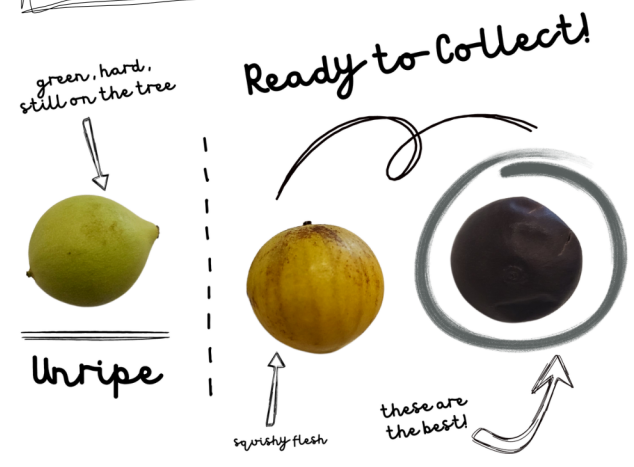
try collecting from as many trees as you can!

Lastly, recognize that it is illegal to collect walnuts from public land without proper collection permits.

If you do not have the proper authorization, your only "legal" source of walnuts for growing is from private land with permission from the owner.

Recognize that this access issue is all too common for indigenous peoples of Los Angeles, who still have to struggle to access the resources needed to keep their way of life alive.

How to collect



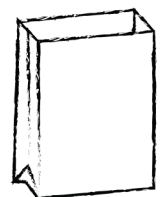
Walnuts must be fully ripe before they should be collected.

Ripe walnuts typically fall to the ground so keep your eyes open! Sometimes the trees hold on to them for a bit longer. Walnuts can be ready for collection anytime throughout the months of July thru November. If you miss this collection season, you can still likely find good walnuts around the dripline of trees.



Walnuts do this cool thing called **MAST SEEDING**. That is just a fancy word for the reality that walnuts set lots of seeds only once every couple of years. What this means for you, is that some years there will be lots to collect, and some years there will be very little. They do this to ensure that some walnuts make it in a world where everyone wants to eat them.

When collecting and for short term storage, place your walnuts in paper bags. **DO NOT USE** plastic. Walnuts need to breathe to stay alive.



How to Process

Step 1: Husk away the flesh around the walnut with a blunt knife. Ripe walnuts should be easy to husk. *Wear gloves if you do not want stained hands for a week or two*

Step 2: Confirm the viability of your walnuts. There are two ways to check if your walnuts are alive and good to germinate:

Float Test

- Place all husked walnuts in a vessel of water. Good nuts will sink because they have well developed endosperm (the nut meat that becomes a tree!). Bad nuts will float.

Cut Test

- Crack your nut as you would a normal nut to eat. Look for a well-developed endosperm. This kills the nut, but it provides a quick diagnosis for viability. Bad nuts have no or dried up / black endosperm.



Good Nut



BAD NUT