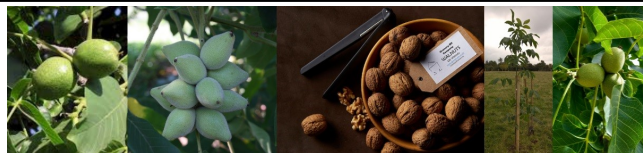




# Granary Oils & Warwickshire Walnuts



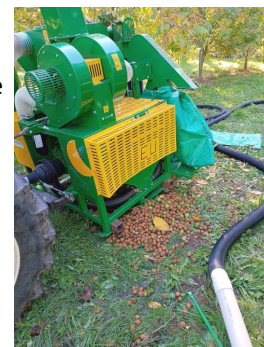
## November 2022

### New walnut harvester

This summer we took the plunge and purchased a harvesting machine, not the traditional sweeper type though but a PTO driven vacuum machine. This was purely to do with our current harvesting locations where trees have mostly not pruned to a usual height and so have very low canopies negating the option for a self propelled sweeper/harvester.

This machine will run off a small low HP tractor mounted on it's 3 Point Linkage and PTO. We shake onto sheets and then rolls those over to make a pick-up row, the nuts are then filtered into sacks and the waste ejected.

Nuts can then be washed and any husks removed in the process, ready for selling as Fresh/Wet walnuts or drying.



### 2022 Season

This year has been very different from the last 4-5 years, frosts were over earlier with our last one 10th April (-4C) which meant only a few cultivars got affected, Sychrov & Saturn the main ones. We had 47 Saturn but 33 have now come out and will be replaced with Lara and Bonifac a modern Hungarian Cultivar, we'll leave the better trees in the hope that we get some of the large nuts in good years. The summer turned into a real drought, we hit 41C and had 25mm rain between the beginning of May and September, without our irrigation we'd have lost a lot of young trees.

Nut sized varied a lot, many varieties were undersized due to the drought, Mars and Jupiter were the standout exception with good sized nuts and Mars with very light kernels. Nuts we harvested in Kent and Dorset weren't affected by the drought in any significant way, their Broadview, Lara and Franquette were good sizes. Moisture content was noticeably down, a benefit of the hot dry weather which meant less drying costs.

For the first year we had some nuts of a new Hungarian variety 'A117 Kesei', 1 of the trees had put on enough lateral growth to crop very well for it's size, good lateral fruiting and large heavy kernels which crack cleanly and easily to reveal a very smooth inner shell. This is important as it means if we wanted to put them through the cracking line we'd get mostly whole/halves of kernel. The kernels are pale and heavy with good flavour. We will hopefully plant another 20-30 of these next winter.

### New Orchard & gap filling

We're planning to fill up all the gaps in our main orchard, some created with the removal of Saturn but the rest from space not properly utilised. These will be mostly Bonifac, Lara and Fernor and then Kesei and Pecans next year.

The smaller orchard contains most of the Red walnuts, Heartnuts, Butternuts and Black Walnuts and some trials and a mix of new cultivars of these and some Manchurian walnuts will complete this orchard.

Our big investment in time and money is a completely new orchard of just over 300 trees on some higher ground half a mile from the farm, this is pasture but we won't graze for a few years until the trees are established and we only have to protect the trunks. The costs of weld mesh means 310 trees worth would blow our budget before we even costed in posts and irrigation so a cheaper solution was found and we'll have to top it for 3-4 years instead and then restart grazing. The trees will be protected by 1.5m mesh guards to keep off the deer and any sheep that escape into it.

Holes have been dug in loamy clay and we'll plant mid December, a mix of 4 main cultivars Chandler, Fernette, Fernor, Lara with a smaller number of Franquette & Tulare. Trees will be mulched heavily and an irrigation system installed.



## Grafted Nut Trees for sale

We managed to get a good selection of trees this year with some new Red and Dwarf Walnuts and a range of cultivars of Heartnuts, Butternuts, Buartnuts and Black Walnuts.

We've unsurprisingly sold all the Mini Multiflora Dwarf Walnuts but there are still one or two Dwarf Cluster Walnuts left which we managed to get for the first time this year. There are also some Heartnuts, Buartnuts and Black Walnut cultivars still available and a limited selection of other pot grown walnuts.

Bare Root cultivars are due in mid December this year and although most are pre-ordered we expect to have some extra at that point for late orders, these will be Chandler, Fernette, Fernor, Franquette & Tulare, nominally 1.2-1.5m.

For large new orders we are usually able to re-order until March if quantities are sufficient.

It looks very promising for a range of Ultra-Northern Pecans, Hicans and Hickory cultivars next summer, our supplier has finally got some Carya rootstocks to enable grafting this winter.

***For tree related enquiries contact Tom on 07816 674854.***

## New Walnut Orchard Course

To encourage more people to eat walnuts all year around we need to encourage more UK growers so that the public can choose local produce that tastes so much better than the generally poor imported walnuts.

To that end we have managed to get funding from the **Cotswold AONB** to run some Courses on establishing walnut orchards. We have run a couple of courses on walnuts in the past but these are aimed squarely at commercial growing for profit.

*If anyone is interested in one of these courses we will offer unallocated places to those outside the AONB, please contact Tom on 07816 674854.*

### How to Grow English Walnuts for Profit

A comprehensive introduction to growing English Walnuts (*Juglans regia*) as a commercial crop.

The course is aimed at new or existing growers who wish to establish an orchard of cultivated walnuts for retail, there is no set minimum size for a commercial orchard, we would consider 20+ trees to be a reasonable small orchard.

The course covers site and cultivar selection, planting, growing and then harvest and markets for the nuts. It is funded by the Cotswold AONB under their Farming in Protected Landscapes fund and as such is free to residents of the AONB who wish to establish a walnut orchard in the AONB.

The first two courses will be run as 2 x ½ days and will be on site at Burmington Farm, CV36 5AR on the edge of the Cotswold AONB. We have a large orchard of English walnuts and other species of walnuts as well as harvesting and processing machinery.

Please enquire to Tom Tame in the first instance on [farm@granayoils.co.uk](mailto:farm@granayoils.co.uk) or mobile 07816 674854.

If you live outside the AONB please contact me as well.

Course 1 -	Day 1	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	10.00-2.00pm
	Day 2	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	10.00-2.00pm
Course 2 -	Day 1	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	10.00-2.00pm
	Day 2	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	10.00-2.00pm

## Walnut Cracking and Shelling for Kernels

We have a full cracking and shelling line and can also press for oil so if you have a quantity of dried walnuts or a suitable variety and you want them shelling please contact **David on 07806 917587.**