**Corylus avellana 'Contorta' Contorted European Filbert, Henry Lauder's Walking Stick**

Edward F. Gilman

**Introduction**

A curious shrub with twisted stems and branches, Walkingstick slowly develops into a nice, rounded form (Fig. 1). Branches grow upright when the plant is young, but eventually droop toward the ground. Flowers emerge and hang from bare stems before the foliage appears in the spring. Fruit is persistent and enjoyed by birds, rodents and humans.

**General Information**

**Scientific name:** Corylus avellana 'Contorta'

**Pronunciation:** KOR-rihl-us av-VEL-luh

**Common name(s):** Contorted European Filbert, Henry Lauder’s Walkingstick

**Family:** Betulaceae

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4B through 8 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** border; container or above-ground planter; accent; cut foliage/twigs

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

**Height:** 5 to 10 feet

**Spread:** 8 to 12 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** orbiculate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** brown

**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristic:** suited for human consumption

Archival copy: for current recommendations see http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu or your local extension office.
Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: medium

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: sprouts from roots or lower trunk

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

Most people plant Walkingstick in a prominent location in the landscape so its unusual habit can be displayed. Place it in a mulched bed or in a mass of low ground cover so adjacent plants will not interfere with it. It can be used as the accent in any garden and is often placed near water, near a deck or patio so passers-by can enjoy it up close.

Pests and Diseases

A foliage and twig blight has been reported.