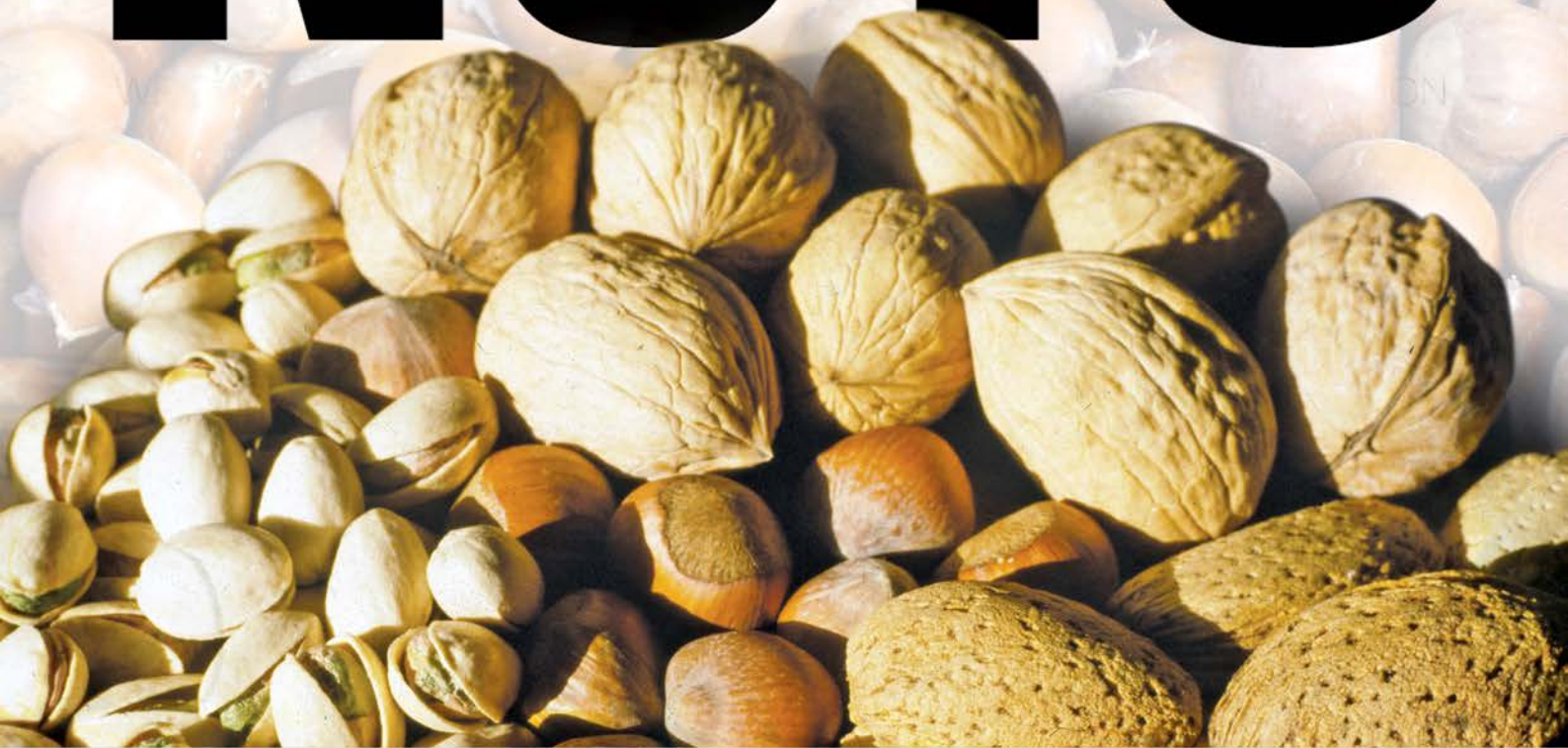


GROWING & KNOWING
NUTS



WRITTEN BY JOHN MASON AND STAFF OF ACS DISTANCE EDUCATION

CONTENTS

CREDITS	4
PREFACE	5
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	6
What is a nut?	7
How are nuts formed?	7
Terminology	8
Harvesting processing and storage	9
Drying and storage	9
CHAPTER 2 COMMONLY GROWN NUT VARIETIES	11
CHAPTER 3 OTHER EDIBLE NUTS	31
CHAPTER 4 USING NUTS	58
Nutritional value of nuts	58
Compare nuts with some other common foods	59
Nut allergies	60
Preparing nuts for consumption	60
Preparation of some nuts:	61
How are nuts used?	62
Using almonds	63
Roast almond stuffing	64
Almond crescents	64
Home-made almond milk	65
Using hazelnuts	65
Crust for meat	65
Hazelnut torte	66
Romesco sauce	66
Using walnuts	67
Carrot cake recipe	67
Baklava	68
Using pecans	68
Pecan pie	68

Pumpkin pecan muffins.....	69
Using cashews.....	69
Korma recipe.....	69
Salted caramel cashews.....	70
Raw cashew cheesecake.....	70
Using macadamias.....	71
Macadamia zucchini.....	71
Macadamia green salad.....	72
White chocolate macadamia cookies.....	72
Using peanuts.....	72
Peanut sauce.....	73
Peanut butter smoothie.....	73
Muesli-bar slice.....	73
Making wattle seed essence.....	74
Here are some more nutty ideas.....	74
Nut butters/pastes.....	74
Nut cookies and cakes.....	74
Chestnut crescents recipe.....	75
Frozen treats.....	75
Macadamia ice cream.....	75
Stir fry.....	76
Salads.....	76
Stuffing and coatings.....	76
Glazed nuts.....	76
Muesli.....	77
Home-made muesli recipe.....	77
APPENDIX	78
Distance learning and online courses.....	78
E books by John Mason and ACS staff.....	79
Printed books by John Mason.....	80
Useful contacts.....	81
ACS global partners.....	81
Social media.....	81

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PREFACE

Everyone is aware of nuts, but few people are aware of how many different types there are; or how many different ways you might use them. This book is designed to expand your perception of what nuts are, how they can be grown and how you might use them. It introduces you to both familiar and unfamiliar plants; some which you may be able to grow where you live; and others which come from countries, climates and perhaps cultures that you are unfamiliar with. It is a book to expand the knowledge of gardeners and commercial growers; to introduce unknown possibilities to the food enthusiast or professional and lay down a foundation for knowing and using nuts for students of food, horticulture or agriculture.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Edible nuts mostly come from trees and often need 5 years or more to produce a crop (sometimes up to 10 or 15 years). Peanuts are an exception - they are grown in the ground rather than on a tree.

When you select a site take into consideration the amount of space required, likelihood of frosts and strong windy conditions, as most nut trees are either intolerant of frosts or experience heavy crop losses through hard winds.

Most nuts trees (excluding hazelnuts, filberts and almonds) very often grow into large trees that require a lot of space. For this reason, if no other; the nut varieties that are grown on a smaller property (e.g. in a home garden) need to be selected carefully.

Nut trees (walnuts excluded) usually need two trees to cross pollinate

(otherwise they do not produce a crop). To provide adequate pollination, you need to plant different varieties of a species (or know that there is one in a nearby property). Nut trees are generally wind pollinated and therefore most will require a cross pollinator planted close by (within 30m or so) for successful pollination.

Climatic conditions required to produce nuts varies depending on species. Some species such as macadamias, pecans and cashews need long hot summers to mature. Others such as walnuts, being prone to sunburn, need cooler conditions.

Many types of plants have nuts as fruits; some are grown commercially as edible food products, and others are not (some are also not edible).

