

DE ASIATISKE TRÆHASLER

af

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ASIAN TREE FORMING *CORYLUS* SPECIES

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gene conservation.*

Summary

The five Asian Tree Forming *Corylus* species constitute a unique group within the genus of usually scrub forming species. Reports from their centres of origin indicate that trees are being lost at an alarming rate for use as firewood and fodder, and care should be taken to save this genetic resource. The conservation work at the botanical gardens are often hindered by the very few clones available, and in many cases the authenticity of the material is suspect. The Turkish

Tree Hazel, *C. colurna*, is the most common of the species and a popular urban tree in Europe and in America, where it has also been used in the breeding of new cultivars of the cultivated large fruited hazels, and for rootstock. The giant Chinese Tree Hazel, *Corylus chinensis*, of which 40 m tall forest trees has been reported, is very rare in Europe, but several valuable characteristics suggest that it should be tried more here.