

UMHDI 1st Generation Cultivars Availability Plan

Late Updated: December 1, 2023

The UMHDI, through its partnership with MidwestHazelnuts, LLC, has developed a priority system for distributing UMHDI 1st Generation Cultivars to growers in the Midwest. The priority system is designed to create the conditions for an efficient and thriving industry and avoid the boom-and-bust cycle common to so many new crops. These conditions include: de-risked initial plantings done in partnership with established organizations and entities committed to long-term development of the industry, geographically clustered growers that can efficiently work together to share expenses and information, socially-networked grower groups that can efficiently develop supply chains and bring product to market.

1st Priority – Go-First Farms

Our first priority for the limited plant material is establishing a network of multi-purpose Go-First Farms. The locations and partners for these farms are carefully selected and vetted to meet UMHDI research objectives and help develop regional supply chains. If you meet the minimum criteria below, you are eligible to apply to host a Go-First Farm. Each application is then vetted based on a range of criteria including, but not limited to: site suitability, proximity to other Go-First Farms and UMHDI research plantings, soil type, irrigation and deer exclusion infrastructure, prior history growing hazelnuts and other woody crops, demonstrated commitment to and vision for building a hazelnut industry by helping other growers and partners be successful. Go-First Farm eligibility:

- Non-profit organization with a mission related to agricultural sustainability and at least three years of operational experience, OR
- Municipality, tribal, or other government entity with demonstrated experience and interest in agricultural programming, OR
- For-profit agricultural business with at least five years in business, AND
- Long-term land tenure of at least 15 years, AND
- Minimum of five acres of agricultural land suitable for growing hazelnuts, AND
- Access to water for irrigation

2nd Priority – Early-Adopter Commercial Partners

After the annual plant needs of the Go First Farms have been met, then plants are made available to grower organizations with demonstrated commitment to building an equitable and sustainable hazelnut industry in the Midwest focused on the dual objectives of new income opportunities for farmers and improved ecosystem services from agricultural lands. Examples of such organizations include but are not limited to: grower associations, non-profit organizations serving growers, for-profit entities building hazelnut supply chains, or informal geographic clusters of growers. Interested organizations are required to complete the Early-Adopter Commercial Partner Application. Once approved, MidwestHazelnuts, LLC staff will work with the Partner and its growers to put together group orders of plant material.

3rd Priority – Go-First Growers

Once annual plant needs of the Go First Farms and Early-Adopter Commercial Partners have been met, the plants are made available to individual growers located within 25 miles (as the crow flies) of a Go-First Farm. This is intended to help create geographic clusters of growers and to ensure the growers have

access to locally-relevant and research-based cultivar and agronomic information. Interested growers are required to complete the Go-First Grower Application.

4th Priority - Individual Growers

Any plants not yet committed to the Go-First Farms, Early-Adopter Commercial Partners, or Go-First Growers will go on sale on a first-come, first-served basis at our website (www.midwesthazels.com) starting October 1 for spring delivery and February 1 for fall delivery.

