

# What's in Bloom?

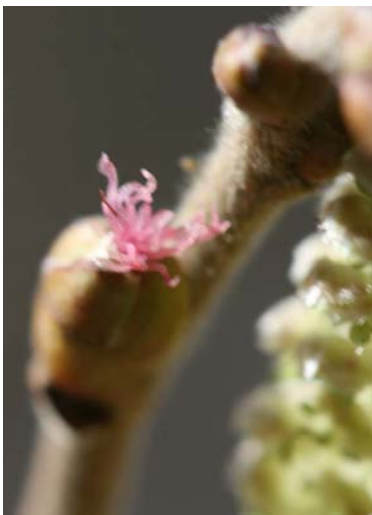
March 19, 2010 By Matt Ross, TBG Horticulturist

## American Hazelnut

One of the earliest northern shrubs to flower is the American Hazelnut or Filbert (*Corylus americana*). The American Hazelnut is a monoecious plant, meaning that it has distinct male and female flowers on the same plant. The long pendulous male flowers are hanging off several branches; and the smaller, less obvious, violet colored female flowers are positioned at the terminal ends of the branches. This shrub is an amazing plant with a versatile fruit similar to the European Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*), which is the primary ingredient in Nutella™. American hazelnuts are hardy from zones 4 to 9 and are an under-story shrub/small tree which can reach heights greater than 10'. These plants made their home here at TBG's Useful Shrub Collection last year in the northern section of the Pioneer Garden as part of a donation from Summer Shades Nursery in Swanton, OH. Continue to check on them throughout the season, and with a little luck they will produce an edible nut by October.



The male flowers or catkins



The female flowers