

# The importance of planting seedlings for the development of Quebec's hazelnut crop

**Éric de Lorimier**

**Pépinière aux arbres fruitiers**

Éric de Lorimier will present the results of his controlled pollination trials carried out in 2024. At the beginning of the project, 3 promising specimens were selected from amongst approximately 1,000 hazelnut trees planted in an experimental orchard. He will explain selection criteria such as hardiness, hazelnut quality and resistance to Eastern filbert blight. He will discuss crossing American hybrids with European varieties, a highly promising option for hazelnut production in Quebec. In 2024, Mr. De Lorimier established a new experimental orchard with 700 hazelnut trees from various origins, in addition to the 1,000 plants already in production. This new orchard includes crossings from his own orchard. Mr. de Lorimier will present samples of some hazelnuts selected for demonstration. In his opinion, the future of hazelnut production in Quebec will largely depend on collaboration between nursery operators and on sharing superior hazelnut genetics. This conference is a prime opportunity to share knowledge, network and work together to improve crossings.