

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3392

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman MITCHELLE DRULIS**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman TENNILLE R. MCCOY**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Freiman and Assemblywoman Donlon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates hazelnut as State nut of New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/11/2026)**

- 1    **AN ACT** designating the hazelnut as the State nut of New Jersey.  
2
- 3    **WHEREAS**, Hazelnuts are part of a multi-billion-dollar industry, and  
4       the demand for hazelnuts is expected to increase as the popularity  
5       of hazelnut-based products, including nut butters, baked goods, and  
6       candy, is expected to grow; and  
7    **WHEREAS**, A majority of the commercially-grown hazelnuts come  
8       from parts of Turkey, with smaller amounts originating in Italy and  
9       other countries with moderate climates; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, The United States accounts for five percent of hazelnut  
11       production worldwide, and hazelnuts grown in the U.S. come  
12       almost exclusively from the Willamette Valley in Oregon; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, The eastern filbert blight is a fungal disease that can be  
14       lethal to commercially-grown hazelnuts or filberts; and  
15   **WHEREAS**, The eastern filbert blight is found throughout the United  
16       States and the disease has prevented New Jersey and states outside  
17       of the Pacific Northwest from growing hazelnuts commercially; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, In 1996, Rutgers University started a research and  
19       breeding program to develop hazelnuts resistant to the disease and  
20       initiate production in New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region; and  
21   **WHEREAS**, In 2020, Rutgers University released to growers its first  
22       hazelnut varieties that are resistant to the eastern filbert blight; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, The university named the new varieties “Raritan,” in honor  
24       of the river whose banks upon which Rutgers University’s New  
25       Brunswick campus lies, as well as “Somerset,” “Monmouth,” and  
26       “Hunterdon,” in honor of some of the first New Jersey counties  
27       where the trees are being grown; and  
28   **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is the first state on the East Coast to grow this  
29       cash crop and more than 30 growers have planted more than 100  
30       acres of trees in the State; and  
31   **WHEREAS**, In recognition of the scientific and economic importance  
32       of growing hazelnuts, it is fitting and proper to designate the  
33       hazelnut as the State nut; now, therefore,  
34
- 35       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
36       *of New Jersey:*  
37
- 38       1. The hazelnut is designated as the State nut.  
39  
40       2. This act shall take effect immediately.