

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IA Nut Growers 2023 Annual Nut Judging

Send in your nut samples today!

Toddville, Iowa (Jan. 30th 2023) — The Iowa Nut Growers Association (INGA) will be hosting the annual nut judging competition at Wickiup Hill Learning Center located at 10260 Morris Hills Rd. Toddville Iowa on Saturday, February 18th from 10:30 am to noon. A potluck lunch will follow the evaluation so bring your favorite dish to share.

The INGA has been conducting the annual nut evaluation since the late 1960's. A formal process with scoring sheets is used to crack, process, and score the nut samples. Some of the best black walnuts available today came from amateur growers that submitted samples back in the sixties and seventies. Everyone is welcome to learn about how it is done and to help process some samples.

According to INGA President Mary Ellen Miller, anyone can submit a sample for the nut evaluation; you don't have to be a member and you don't even need to live in Iowa. She encourages anyone with samples to send them in for scoring. A proper sample for walnuts, hickories, pecans, butternuts, heartnuts, etc. is roughly 12 nuts; hazelnuts need a few more at 20. Select husk free and clean nuts for the sample.

Be sure to write your name and contact information on the sample bag for identification purposes. Please also include the variety name if it is known. Other information to include is whether it is a native or seedlings you planted.

The following species are scored - Black Walnut, Carpathian Walnut, Shagbark and Shellbark Hickory, Hican, Butternut, Hazelnut, Pecan, and Heartnut. Samples can also be mailed to Jeff Jensen, 3404 20th Ave, Fenton IA 50539

For more information about the nut evaluation and the Iowa Nut Growers Association, visit their website at <https://iowanutgrowers.com/>

Questions? Contact Jeff Jensen at jeff@jenagres.com or via phone at 515-320-6756 or Mary Ellen Miller, INGA President, at rosehaven1760@gmail.com or via phone at 515.783.6390.

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