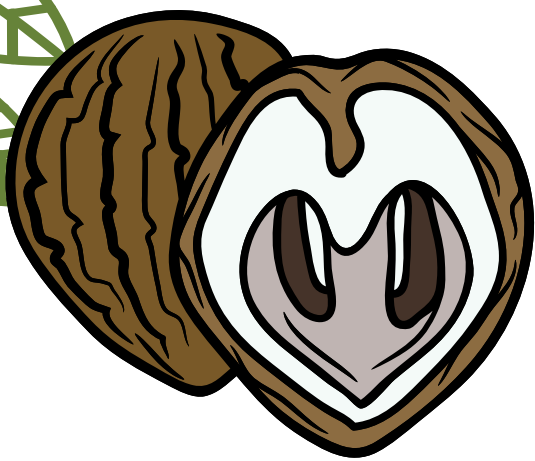


Veggie gardens & Black Walnut Trees



An important consideration for siting a new garden is the location's proximity to walnut trees. Every part of the tree—but especially buds, nut hulls, and roots—exudes juglone.

Juglone is toxic to many plants but some plants are unaffected and a few even thrive. Avoid planting sensitive plants within several feet of the tree's drip line or 50-60' of the tree trunk.

Tolerant

Beans
Beets
Swiss chard
Corn
Onions
Garlic
Melons
Squash
Carrots
Cauliflower
Many fruit trees

Sensitive

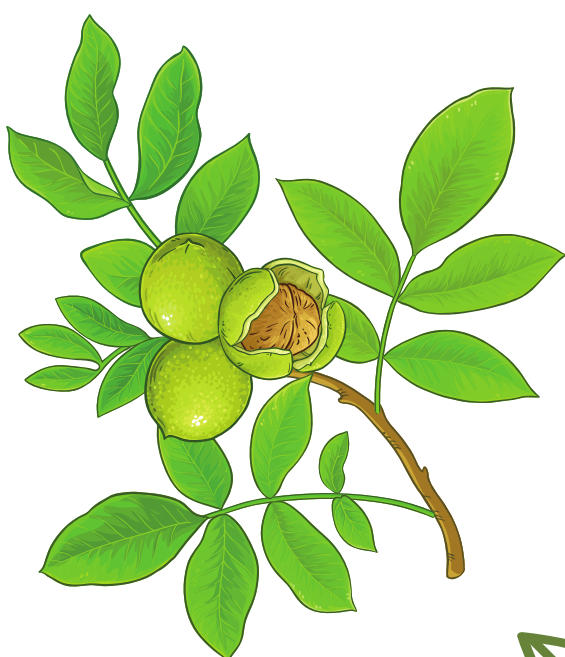
Tomatoes
Peppers
Eggplant
Rhubarb
Potatoes
Asparagus
Cabbage
Peas

In an area that has walnut trees, but a garden is desired there are still options for growing sensitive plants. Gardeners can plant juglone-tolerant plants in their native soil, and sensitive plants can be planted in containers, raised beds, lasagna beds, or planted in straw bales.

Composting: after the plant material has fully broken down it will no longer contain juglone. Leaves take 2-4 weeks to break down. Wood mulch and branches may take years.



Black walnuts are a native plant and extremely common in Iowa. The trees grow upwards of 75' tall and wide and live for several decades. They're easily identified by the 2-3" green fruits that fall in the late summer, and turn yellow and black. The smell of the fruits and leaves is also very distinctive.



Decaying tree roots will continue to release juglone for several years after a tree is removed, so it's important to also avoid planting sensitive plants in areas where walnut trees previously grew.