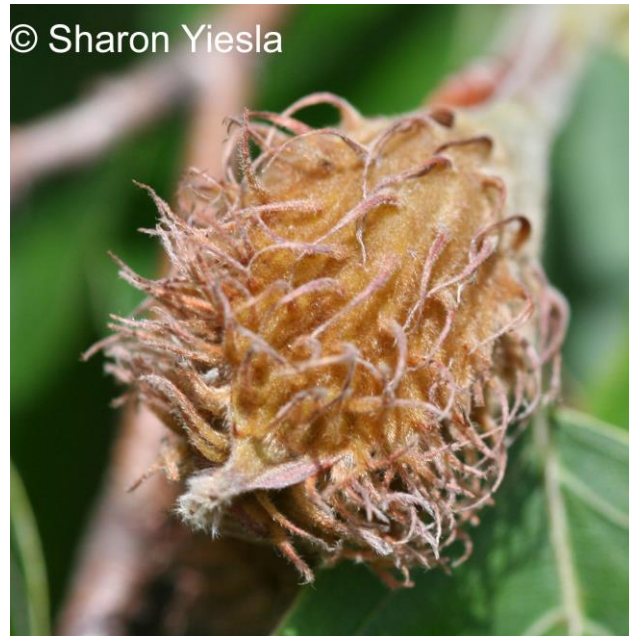




Nut: large, dry fruit with a thick, bony wall surrounding the seed. Nuts have one seed and are indehiscent at maturity.

The definition of a nut (above) seems so simple, but it's not. Sometimes there are extra layers of plant material that make it complicated. Take a look at beech (*Fagus* spp.) nuts. The picture on the left shows an intact 'beech nut', but the second picture shows it open (dehiscent). Hmm. The spiny thing on the left is not the nut. It is husk (involucre) that develops from a set of bracts subtending the flower. The true nuts (see the arrow) are inside.



Acorns, found on oaks, are also nuts with extra components. Here the 'cap' of the acorn is the involucre.

Filbert (*Corylus americana*) has a nut surrounded by a frilly involucre (1). The real nut is near the center of the picture (see arrow.)

