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Many walnut shells are slightly dark when the hull is removed. Commercial growers use a 2 per cent solution of sodium hypochlorite to bleach the shell. On a home scale similar solutions, such as Clorox, Purex, Saniclor, and Vano Bleach, may be used to accomplish the same purpose. Hypochlorite properly applied, unlike the use of fumes of burning sulfur, does not injure either the flavor or keeping quality of the nuts.

The nuts must be thoroughly dried, either in the sun or in a dehydrator at not over 110°F, before they are bleached. Nuts which have hull or much fiber sticking to the shell cannot be bleached satisfactorily. Split nuts should not be bleached.

The bleaching solution should be prepared in a wooden barrel or trough in a well-ventilated room or outdoors. The bleaching solution is diluted to 2 per cent available chlorine. The strength of the hypochlorite solutions on the market may vary from 5 to 20 percent of available chlorine, so it is important to note the strength indicated on the label. Enough water should be added to 2 gallons of the chlorine solution to make the final volume in gallons equal the original strength of the bleach. For example, if the original strength is 5 per cent available chlorine, use 2 gallons of the bleach and 3 gallons of water; if the original strength is 10 per cent, use 2 gallons of the bleach and 8 gallons of water.

Place the walnuts in a dipping basket and immerse them in the bleaching solution for 2 or 3 minutes. If the nuts are not sufficiently bleached, add 1 pint of 100-grain distilled vinegar to each 5 gallons of the bleaching solution. Do not leave the nuts in the bleaching solution for more than 3 minutes.

Remove the nuts, drain them, and let them dry in open crates or on trays for 24 to 48 hours in a well-ventilated drafty place indoors.

In order that the information in our publications may be more intelligible it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products rather than complicated descriptive or chemical identifications. In so doing it is unavoidable in some cases that similar products which are on the market under other trade names may not be cited. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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