

Planting Your Chestnuts

Container Planting your Nuts

- *Keep the nuts in a refrigerator until ready to plant. Note: If nut is germinating, plant as soon as possible and do not allow the root to dry out.**
- *Use a deep container (cardboard 1/2 gallon milk or juice cartons work well)**
- *Make holes in bottom for drainage.**
- *Fill container to the top with potting soil, "do not compact soil"**
- *Make a small hole on top of soil with a spoon.**
- *If the nut has started to germinate, place the nut with the root pointing down, carefully into the hole. Do not break or damage the root.**
- *Cover nut lightly with 1 inch of potting soil.**
- *Gently water the container until entire soil is soaked. Allow water to drain from holes on bottom.**
- *Place your container in a well lit room. It can be placed in direct sunlight but where it will not overheat.**
- *Seedlings should emerge in 7-10 days.**
- *When/if container's weight feels light when lifted, water carefully.**
- *DO NOT OVER WATER (a bit dry is better than overly wet)**
- *When weather permits, place seedling outdoors a few hours each day in filtered sunlight to acclimate plant slowly to outdoor conditions. (NOTE: DO NOT LEAVE ANYPLACE WHERE SQUIRRELS OR CHIPMUNKS CAN GET AT THE PLANT AS THEY WILL DIG UP THE NUT!)**
- *When danger of frost is past and acclimation is complete, find a well drained, sunny location. Chestnuts prefer dry, rather than wet soil.**
- *Dig a hole large and deep enough for the soil in the container. (Do not heavily water your container before transplanting, as soil will crumble apart when planted)**
- *If using a cardboard milk container, cut the sides of the container off.**
- *Carefully place the clump of soil with seedling into the hole. Carefully fill in hole with potting soil or loose, light soil and water well.**

PROTECT YOUR TREE RIGHT AWAY!!

- *Place a 1 foot tree tube or wire around the tree. Make sure it extends slightly down into the soil around the tree to protect it from squirrels and mice.**
- WARNING! Squirrels love to eat chestnuts and will dig up your seedling if not protected. Deer also love the tender buds of your seedling and tree if not protected from them.**
- *You can water your chestnut tree especially if draught occurs.**

***Chestnuts can also be fertilized every 2 weeks during the summer for maximum growth. We use Miracle Gro for Azaleas, Camillia, Rhododendron.**

PLANTING YOUR NUT DIRECTLY IN THE GROUND

- *Nuts can also be directly planted in the soil outside.**
- *Drive a stake into the ground next to where you want to plant the tree.**
- *Chestnuts will do best in well drained sunny soil (avoid damp, wet soils)**
- *Dig a small 3 inch hole into the soil.**
- *Add a small amount of potting soil in the hole.**
- *Set the nut with SPROUT DOWN into the hole (the sprout is actually the root).**
- *Lightly cover with potting soil and water well soon after planting.**
- *To protect the nut and seedling , place a 1 ft tree tube or a fine wire hardware cloth around the plant site. (see above planting instructions for seedlings).**