



**CHESTNUT HILL**  
NURSERY & ORCHARDS

## FALL PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear Customer,

Your order of trees has been carefully chosen for you and your trees were in good condition when they left our nursery. Once you accept your trees, their growing and cultural conditions are beyond our control and become the responsibility of the grower. Fruit, nut and wildlife trees are not difficult to grow, but they do require care to become established in their new environment and as they grow to provide you with a bounty of fresh fruits and nuts.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS** to insure that your trees will have the best start possible.

You have requested a fall shipping date. Fall shipping can be an excellent time to plant trees because temperatures are cooling off and the trees will require less watering. The trees will start to go dormant and lose their leaves, but their root systems will continue to grow throughout the winter months, giving them a head start on next year's growing season. The trees you have received still have leaves on them and are actively growing. Even though the cool months of the fall and winter are approaching, they will still need to be watered for the best transplant success. It is critical that their roots receive adequate water until their leaves begin to drop and the trees go into winter dormancy. You may notice some browning of the leaves on your trees this is the result of them shutting down for the dormant winter months and they will continue to lose the remainder of their leaves during the next several weeks, which is a normal process. Once they have lost their leaves and are dormant, they won't require as much water, but it is still critical to keep their roots slightly moist throughout the winter months. Their roots will continue to grow over the winter. Rainfall can be adequate in the fall/winter months, but if you experience a dry period for a length of time, they may require supplemental watering. Mulching them well can help keep the roots moist during the winter months. Leaf litter, pine needles, shredded or fine bark and even hay are acceptable mulches, but avoid large bark nuggets. Large bark nuggets require nitrogen to break down and can rob this valuable nutrient from your trees during the growing season. Once they leaf out again in the spring, their need for water will increase as temperatures rise again.

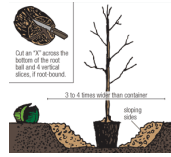
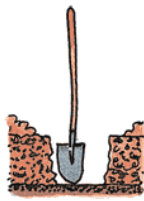
### INSTRUCTIONS

**1.** Remove the trees from their packaging and water them *\*note remove the foam packaging placed on the bottom of the container.* Inspect the trees for damage (drying or breakage). **If there are ANY problems with your shipment, WE MUST HEAR FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF THE TREES** by calling 1-800-669-2067 or email [chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com](mailto:chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com). If your package is badly damaged, please discuss this with the UPS driver at delivery and do not throw away the packaging in case you need to file a claim with UPS.

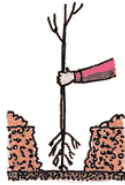
**2.** You can plant the trees right away. For fall plantings, it is important to get the trees into the ground to allow their roots to get established before the winter months arrive. An alternative is to up-pot them to a 3 gallon container for spring planting. You will need to protect the roots while in pots against freezes. *Questions please contact us.*

**3.** Pick a planting site with good soil drainage and do not plant in the bottom of swales or areas that stay saturated for long periods of time. Most trees do not grow well in wet soils. Also, avoid frost pockets (bottoms of valleys) because late frosts can hurt nut and fruit production, especially in northern locations. Choose a full sun location and proper pH for the tree you purchased. Prepare the area by removing any weeds prior to planting. This step is often overlooked but is absolutely critical to any successful planting. Weeds and grass steal light, water and nutrients from your trees. We recommend weed mats.

**4.** Dig a hole 2 times wider than the pot, so the roots can grow outward without crowding, but not deeper than the root ball. The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.



5. Carefully remove the tree from the container keeping the soil around the roots intact. It helps to tap the outside of the container to loosen the edge. Carefully slide the tree from the container. Don't yank the tree out of the container as this can separate the roots from the tree.



6. Plant them at the same height they were grown in the container (at the crown where the bark changed from green to brown), with plenty of room for the roots. Partially fill the planting hole with the native soil. Set the tree in the middle of the hole with plenty of room for the roots. Avoid planting the tree too deep. Using some soil, secure the tree in a straight position, then fill with native soil and firming the soil around the lower roots making sure there are no air pockets. Keep backfilling until the soil is just above the root collar.

Do not add soil amendments such as compost, peat, or bark this can cause root fungus. Do not use fertilizer, potting soil or chemicals on your young trees.

7. We recommend keeping the bamboo stake attached to the tree for 1 season. After 1 season you can remove the bamboo stake. If the tree appears stable staking is not needed. If staking is necessary, hold the trunk with one hand to find the height at which the unsupported top can stand up on its own and will spring back to a vertical position if lightly flexed. Allow trees a slight amount of flex rather than holding them rigidly in place. Tree straps should be made of material that will not injure the tree. ***If using Grow Tubes then staking the tree is not necessary. You will need to attach a stake to your grow tubes. \* see grow tube instructions.***

8. Create a water-holding basin around the hole and water the trees in thoroughly at planting, making sure that there are no air pockets around the roots. Water slowly at the drip line. After the water has soaked in, spread a protective layer of mulch 2-4" deep around the trunk pulling the mulch a few inches away from the trunk on top of the ground with leaf litter, hay, shredded or fine bark, pine needles or use weed mats to prevent weed competition. While the trees still have leaves on them, they will need to be watered at least twice/week, perhaps more on sandier soils. The amount of water needed is dependent on your soil, temperatures and rainfall.

As the temperatures cool off and they start to lose their leaves, you can gradually water less, keeping the roots slightly moist throughout the winter. **IT IS EXTREMELY CRITICAL THAT NEWLY TRANSPLANTED TREES BE WATERED REGULARLY DURING THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF GROWTH.** It is the most important factor to insure the successful start of your new trees! For more information on watering go to our website and visit "**How to plant and grow**" section. [www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com](http://www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com).



9. Remove any ties, tags and labels from the trees to prevent girdling branches and trunks.

**10.** We recommend **Grow Tubes** for wildlife, food plots and forest plantings. Our tubes act like mini-greenhouses, translucent to specific sunlight that protect and nurture growth of small seedlings until the tree is big enough to survive on its own. The ventilation prevents excess moisture and increases growth by recycling moisture from leaf transpiration. Tubes protect trees from browsing by deer, from chewing by deer, rodents and rabbits on the trunks. Also, Grow Tubes protect young trees from herbicide drift if you use herbicide to control weeds which can kill young trees. **Do Not use black plastic drain pipe or tubing as tree shelter.** They will damage your trees. Weeds compete for water and fertilizer, so weed control is important. We also recommend weed mats, available on our website.

**11.** You do not need to prune your trees at this time. After next summer's growing season, you can do any necessary pruning during the following winter months. See our website for more info on pruning.

**12.** Do not fertilize the trees when planting in the fall! Fertilizing can promote new growth and the goal is to allow the trees to go dormant for the winter season. Fertilize next spring after your trees have leafed out and once danger of frost has past. We recommend a time-released fertilizer with balanced micronutrients, such as the Scotts Osmocote Indoor/Outdoor 19-6-12 or Espoma Holly Tone or Tree Tone Organic Fertilizer (available at most Garden Centers). Do not expect your trees to grow rapidly the first year. The trees will be putting a majority of their energy into new root production. Once established, they will make rapid growth in the following years.



**13.** We recommend removing any small fruit or nuts that begin to form during the first 2 years. This leaves the tree with more energy for root establishment. By year 3-5, your chestnut and fruit trees should start to bear.

## SPACING

Chestnut trees recommended spacing is between 30' and 40' apart for best pollination. They can be planted as far apart as 100'. They will grow to 40'-60' tall and 40' around, so they will need adequate space. Fruit trees can be planted closer, 10'-15', because they are smaller trees. The website provides approximate sizes for each variety.

## POLLINATION

Certain fruit and nut trees require a pollinator (a different variety) in order to produce fruit or nuts. For Chestnuts plant same variety of chestnut i.e Dunstan Chestnut. See our website for more information.

[www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com](http://www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com).

## QUICK REFERENCE

- Plant in Full Sun (6-8hrs a day), Well Drained Soil
- PH 5.0-7.0, Space 30-40' apart for chestnuts.
- Water thoroughly but do not over-water; the soil should dry down slightly between watering and protect from deer. (see # 8 for more info & see our website under "How to plant and Grow")

## REPLACEMENT POLICY

Once you have accepted receipt of your trees, they become your responsibility. Through our many years of growing and shipping trees around the nation, we have learned that there are many cultural factors that can affect the growth of trees, such as soil conditions, watering (both under and over), fertilization, diseases, insect pressure, early and late freezes and care (or lack thereof) by the owner. Chestnut Hill cannot be held responsible for cultural conditions that are beyond our control or if the trees are planted on a site away from your home and do not receive supplemental water. Your planting success will decrease if the plants don't receive adequate care for establishment. If you have specific growing questions or concerns, please contact us at 1-800-669-2067 or by emailing us at [chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com](mailto:chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com).

See our website for more information. [www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com](http://www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com).