

## SPRING 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.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Unpack your trees; remove the plastic bag around the roots and the twist tie holding your trees together. Carefully separate your trees; there may be more than one tree in your package depending on how many you have ordered. Please note that the roots have been covered with a hydrating gel which keeps them moist during shipment. Check the roots to see if they are still moist. **If there are ANY problems with your shipment, WE MUST HEAR FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF THE TREES** by calling 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. If you're located in the southern U.S. (zones 7-10), you can plant your trees right away. If you need to wait for a few days, keep the plants in a cool dark place where they can't freeze, inside of their packaging, and keep their roots slightly moist until you can plant them. If you live in the northern U.S., wait until spring and/or your ground thaws before planting. You can heal them in using peat or your native soil. Store them in a COOL place such as a basement or root cellar (35-50 degrees F). DO NOT allow the roots to freeze for this will kill the trees. Keep the roots SLIGHTLY moist, but not too wet or they will mold. The trees will then stay dormant until the ground is warm enough to plant. If you wait to plant until the fall, up-pot them to a 3 gallon container. *Please contact us if you have any questions.*

3. Your planting site selection should be in full sun, well-drained (better drained than apple trees require), non-low lying area or areas that stay saturated for long periods of time, sandy loam soils with a pH between 5-6.5. Most trees do not grow well in wet soils. Dense clay soils stunt root growth and hold on to too much water, leading to weak, slow-growing trees. Also, avoid frost pockets (bottom of valleys) because late frosts can hurt nut and fruit production, especially in northern locations. A sheltered north-facing slope protected from drying winds and low sun of winter may be better for cold windy sites. 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 or mulch.

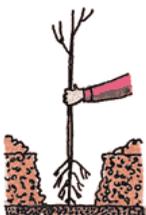
4. Dig a hole 2 times wider than the pot, so the roots can grow outward without crowding, but not deeper than the root ball. (The hole should have sloping sides like a saucer to allow for proper root growth.



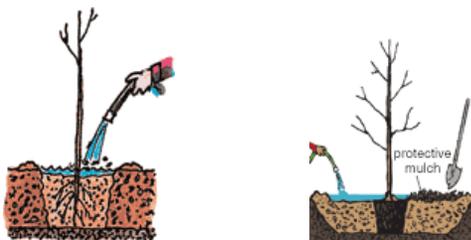
5. Plant the tree at the same depth it grew in the nursery (at the crown where the bark changed from green to brown), with plenty of room for the roots. Plant at the depth of this color difference if the trees are grafted varieties, DO NOT BURY THE GRAFT UNION. Partially fill the planting hole with the 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 back-filling until the soil is level with 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 new trees.



6. 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 and reduce water evaporation. While the trees are dormant, they need to be kept slightly moist. Once the trees break bud and leaf out, they will need to be watered regularly, at least twice per week, throughout the growing season and more often during dry spells. The amount of water needed is dependent on your soil, temperatures and rainfall.



**IT IS EXTREMELY CRITICAL THAT NEWLY TRANSPLANTED TREES BE WATERED REGULARY 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).

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

8. 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.

9. We recommend keeping the pot stake attached to the tree for 1 season. After 1 season you can remove the pot 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.*** <http://www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com/store/p/58-4-Grow-Tubes.aspx>

10. 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. Only prune chestnuts if you need to remove lower limbs, or crossed branches - they should naturally grow as a central leader. See our website for more info on pruning. “**How to Plant and Grow**” section.

**11. DO NOT FERTILIZE BARERROOT TREES AT PLANTING** for it will burn the young roots. Wait until next spring after your tree has leafed out to fertilize, using a timed release fertilizer with balanced micronutrients, such as Scotts Osmocote Indoor/outdoor 19-6-12, Espoma Holly Tone or Tree Tone Organic Fertilizer (available at most Garden Centers). Follow rate instructions on the container. Do not fertilize in the late summer or fall, for this can promote late season growth and potential damage from early freezes. In future years, fertilize 1-2 times/year, once in the early spring when they start to break dormancy, and again in early summer. Do not expect your trees to grow rapidly from the very start. After transplanting, the trees put a majority of their energy into root production and then are able to make rapid growth in the following years.



**12.** 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 depending on care and climate they receive. *Trees planted in colder regions such as USDA zone 5, may bear between 5-7 years of age.*

## **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. These trees are: Grafted American female persimmons some are self pollinating and some need another variety. See "*Deer Candy persimmon page*". Chestnuts plant same variety (i.e Dunstan Chestnuts). Oriental persimmons, are self-pollinating and do not need another variety for cross-pollination. See our website for more information. [www.chestnuthilloutdoors.com](http://www.chestnuthilloutdoors.com).

## **QUICK REFERENCE**

- Plant in Full Sun (6-8hrs a day), Well Drained Soil, sandy loam is best
- pH 5.0-6.5, Space 30-40' apart for chestnuts. *2 or more Dunstan varieties are all you need*
- Water thoroughly but do not over-water; the soil should dry down slightly between watering and protect from deer. (see # 6 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 800-669-2067 or by emailing us at [chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com](mailto:chestnuthillnursery@gmail.com).**

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