

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).