

# Planting Instructions



SINCE 1981

**CHESTNUT HILL  
NURSERY**

**Please read the following instructions to insure that your trees will have the best start possible.**

Fruit, nut and wildlife trees are not difficult to grow, but they do require consistent care to become established in their new environment and as they grow to provide you with a bounty of fresh fruits and nuts. Your order of trees has been carefully chosen for you.

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.

## **Step 1**

### **Unpack your trees.**

Remove the plastic bag around the roots (the roots are covered with a hydrating gel to keep them moist during shipment). Carefully separate and inspect the trees to see if their roots are still moist. If there are any problems with your shipment, please contact our office immediately by calling 800-669-2067 or email us at [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 packing in the event that a claim needs to be filed with UPS.

## **Step 4**

### **Water your trees.**

If your trees are still 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 regularly during the first year of growth. It is the more important factor to insure the successful start of your new trees!

## **Step 2**

### **Check plant zone.**

If you are located in the southern U.S. (USDA zones 7-10), you can plant your trees right away. If you need to wait for a few days, keep the plants inside of their packaging in a cool, dark place where they can't freeze and keep the roots slightly moist until you are ready to plant. If you live in the northern U.S. (USDA zones 5-6), wait until your ground thaws before planting. Store the trees in a COOL dark place such as the garage or basement (35-50 degrees F). Do not allow the roots to freeze because this will kill the trees. Keep the roots slightly moist during storage, but not too wet or they will mold. The trees will then remain dormant until the ground is warm enough to plant.

## **Step 5**

### **Remove all weeds.**

Remove any weeds around the planting area. Installing weed mats at planting are helpful in keeping weeds from robbing water and nutrients away from your newly planted trees. Mulch, such as leaf litter, hay, shredded or fine bark and pine needles can also be used for weed control (avoid large bark nuggets which rob nitrogen from the soil).

## **Step 3**

### **Choose plant site.**

Your planting site should be in full sun and in well drained soils with a pH between 5 - 6.5. Dig a hole 2 times wider than the root system. Plant the tree at the same depth it grew in the nursery (at the crown where the bark changes from greenish to brown), with plenty of room for the roots. If the tree is a grafted variety, do not bury the graft union. Slowly fill in the hole with native soil, making sure there are no air pockets around the roots. Create a water-holding basin around the hole and water the trees in thoroughly at planting. There is no need to amend the soil unless your soil conditions are extremely poor. We do not recommend applying fertilizer or chemicals to newly planted trees.





# Planting Recommendations

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## Use Grow Tubes.

We recommend using Grow Tubes for wildlife, food plots and forest plantings. The tubes act like mini-greenhouses, recycling moisture from leaf transpiration to nurture growth of young seedlings until the tree is big enough to survive on its own. They also provide protection against deer, rodent and rabbit browse and chewing, and can also provide a barrier from herbicide drift if herbicide is used to control weeds (to which young trees are sensitive). Grow Tubes need a stake to keep the tube upright.

## Skip the fertilizer.

We do not recommend applying fertilizer to newly planted trees. Fertilizer can burn tender young roots if applied at incorrect rates or without supplemental water. Please see our website for detailed information about fertilization once your trees become established.

## Keep the stake.

If your tree comes with a stake, keep the stake on the tree for the first season, checking to make sure any ties or strapping are not girdling the tree. After that time, the tree should be stable enough to remove the stake.

## Bundle up.

In the event that you experience a late spring frost after your trees have leafed out, wrap the tree with freeze cloth (available at garden centers) or even an old sheet. This can provide effective protection in the event of light frosts only. Do not use plastic or tarps as frost protection.



# We're here to help you put down roots and enrich the land that sustains you.

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

At Chestnut Hill, we are driven by the love of living things. Our roots go back to Dr. Robert T. Dunstan, who worked to stop the complete devastation of the American chestnut tree by inventing a blight-resistant hybrid called the Dunstan Chestnut. This resilient tree produces large, nutritious nuts that are good for wildlife, good for people, and good for the land.

We believe it's not enough for us to talk about love of nature; we feel obliged to create living products that meet real needs. What began with chestnuts has grown to include a wide variety of fruit and flowering trees. Our plants provide abundant sustenance and long-lasting beauty.

People need hardy, healthy plants and the knowledge to help them thrive. With three generations of tree-planting expertise, knowledge is in our roots. Call it dirt wisdom.



**DIRT WISDOM**  
SINCE 1981

**Visit the Chestnut Hill Learning Center for  
more information about your specific trees.**