

# 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).