



PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear Customer,

Your order of trees has been carefully chosen for you and 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.

HOW TO PLANT

1. Remove the trees from their packing and wet the roots. They have been dipped in a root gel to keep their roots moist during shipping. Inspect the trees for damage (such as freezing, 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 emailing chestnuthilltreefarm@gmail.com. If your package is badly damaged, please discuss this with the UPS driver at delivery.
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 pot them up or heal them in using peat, sawdust, soil or potting mix. 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.
3. When planting, dig a larger hole than the roots. Plant them at the same height they were grown in the nursery (at the crown where the bark changes from green to brown). If the trees are grafted varieties, DO NOT BURY THE GRAFT UNION. For optimum growth and fruit/nut production, we recommend planting in full sun.
4. Water the trees in thoroughly at planting, making sure that there are no air pockets around the roots. 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. 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!!
5. Do not prune chestnuts at planting. Apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums and Oriental Persimmons are normally topped at 3-4' height at planting to promote branching. See our website for more info. Only prune chestnuts if you need to remove lower limbs, or crossed branches - they should naturally grow as a central leader.
6. We recommend **Grow Tubes** for many orchard and wildlife plantings. Our tubes act like mini-greenhouses and promote rapid growth of the tree, often growing out of the tube in one season. They also protect the tree from browsing by deer, rodents and rabbits from chewing on the trunk, and deer from rubbing their antlers on the young trees. **Grow Tubes** also recycle moisture that has transpired off the leaves at night which re-waters the tree and helps during droughts. Finally, **Grow Tubes** protect the young tree from herbicide drift if you use herbicide to control weeds around the tree. Overspray from Roundup will kill young trees. Weeds compete with the young trees for water and fertilizer, so weed control is important. We recommend using weed mats, which are available on our website.
5. DO NOT FERTILIZE BARERoot TREES AT PLANTING with standard lawn fertilizer for it will burn the young roots. Wait until early summer to fertilize, using a timed release fertilizer with balanced micronutrients, such as the **Fertilizer packs** that we offer on our website, or Scotts Osmocote (available at most Garden Centers and chain stores). Fertilize only lightly the first year (follow rate instructions on the bag). 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 following years.
6. If your tree suckers (growing shoots from the base of your tree or beneath the graft union), remove the suckers with clippers flush with the trunk. Suckers will sap growth from the tree and need to be removed when still small.



7. Fruit and nut production - 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 3-4 your chestnut and fruit trees should start bearing.

FOR EVERGREEN PLANTS (PLANTS WITH GREEN LEAVES AND SHIPPED WITH SOIL AROUND THEIR ROOTS, SUCH AS AVOCADOS, POMEGRANATES, MAGNOLIAS, LOQUATS)

These plants need to be planted immediately or potted up. They are not in a dormant state and are actively growing, although their growth has slowed down during the cool winter months. Young, tender trees such as avocados will need to be protected from winter temperatures until danger of frost is past. Once they are planted, follow the care instructions as for bareroot trees.

POTTED STOCK

Potted stock picked up here at the nursery can be planted year-round, but make sure to water frequently to prevent shock if planted in the summer. Fall or spring is the best time to plant potted trees and winter planting is fine for the milder southern states. Follow the same instructions for fertilizer and care as above, except potted stock can be fertilized at planting since their roots are already established within their rootball.

SOIL AND SITE SELECTION

Pick a location with good soil drainage, and do not plant in the bottom of swales or areas that stay saturated for long periods, as most trees do not grow well in wet soils. Also avoid frost pockets (bottoms of valleys) as late frosts can hurt nut and fruit production, especially in northern locations.

SPACING

Chestnuts should be planted a minimum of 20' apart and a maximum of 40' for best pollination. They will grow to 60-80' tall and 40' around, so they will need space. Fruit trees can be planted closer, 10-15' apart, as they are smaller trees.

POLLINATION

Certain fruit and nut trees require a pollinator (a different variety) in order to produce fruit or nuts. These trees are: chestnuts (any 2 seedlings will cross-pollinate each other), apples and Fry, Summit, and Jumbo muscadines. Pears, plums and blueberries will produce more consistently if they are planted with another variety. Persimmons, figs, peaches, nectarines, citrus, blackberries, avocados, pomegranates, mulberries and other muscadine varieties are self-pollinating and do not need another variety for cross-pollination. See website for more info.

REPLACEMENT POLICY

Once you have accepted receipt of your trees, they become the complete responsibility of the owner. 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, fertilization, diseases, insects, 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.

Toll Free: 1-800-669-2067 Fax: 386-462-4330

Website: www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com Email: chestnuthilltreefarm@gmail.com