

## Hazel Seed nut Instructions

Mix seednuts at a 50:50 ratio with a damp (not wet!) medium, such as sawdust, peat moss, moist sand, or leaves. Seal in a Ziploc bag, and store in your refrigerator. Absolutely do not put in freezer—that will kill your seeds.

Keep in fridge until about mid April. By then, some of the seeds will have begun sprouting. Don't worry.

Plant seeds about one seed diameter deep (about ½ inch) in pots with around one pint of volume (need not be exact). Use a light, porous grower's mix consisting of things like peat, vermiculite, perlite, composted pine bark, composted rice or soybean hulls, etc. DO NOT use so-called "potting soil." It is much too dense and non-porous.

Keep planted hazels protected from rodents such as mice, chipmunks, and squirrels. These animals will try very hard, and go to great lengths to get to your hazel seeds, and can wipe them out in a matter of minutes. Your protection must be absolutely effective.

Keep pots watered with rain water collected from roof runoff. Do not use well water or city tap water. Fertilization is not necessary, but may be helpful. Use manure tea or compost tea as a foliar feed.

Keep hazel seedlings in pots at least until late August or early September. You may then set them out in their final locations. If you do not have a final location, leave them in their pots until you do—do not plant them in a garden with the intention of digging them up later, once you know where you want them. Hazels are in between difficult and impossible to transplant, once they have been growing in the ground for a year or so.

Protect hazel seedlings from browsing by rabbits, using a small cage of chicken wire, mesh type tree shelters, or similar. If deer are a potential problem, you can make your own deer repellent using raw eggs. Beat raw eggs in a bowl, as if to scramble them, then pour through a filter such as window screen or paint filter. Mix with water at one egg to a quart, or a dozen to five gallons. Spray mixture on foliage and twigs. Five gallons will treat about an acre of seedlings. Re apply every two weeks.

Protect seedlings from weed competition. This may be the single most important requirement for successful planting. The easiest and most effective way is to use a square of landscape fabric (1' to 3' square), topped with 1" to 2" of woodchips around the base of each plant.

Good luck.

Tom Wahl, Red Fern Farm  
13882 I Ave  
Wapello, IA 52653  
[tom@redfernfarm.com](mailto:tom@redfernfarm.com) [www.redfernfarm.com](http://www.redfernfarm.com)