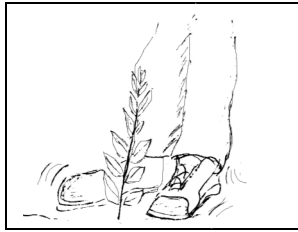
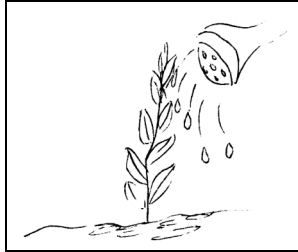


Firm the soil around the tree roots to exclude air pockets.



WATER!

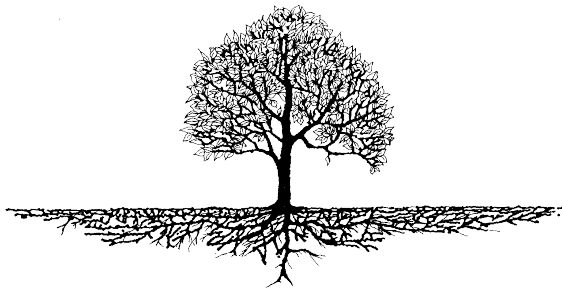
Water right after planting and any time the soil becomes dry after planting.



Maintenance

Improper or inadequate maintenance is the #1 reason for tree planting failure. Trees need to be protected from clumsy feet, mowers, deer, rabbits, and weed competition, especially grasses. The best combination is a tree shelter with a mulch mat such as landscape cloth around the tree and 4 inch layer of wood chips over the mat. A Competent pesticide applicator can substitute herbicides for mulch.

Mowing by itself is not enough for weed control. Do not use solid tree shelters on chestnuts. Plantra www.plantra.com makes well-ventilated shelters that work well on chestnuts. Pawpaws are very delicate when small and really need a 2' tall tree shelter for protection from wind and sun as well as deer, rabbits, and mowers.



Red Fern Farm

Tree Planting Guide



Red Fern Farm

13882 I Ave

Wapello, Iowa 52653

319/729-5905

www.redfernfarm.com

A note from Red Fern Farm...

These instructions apply to container grown chestnuts, heartnuts, persimmons, pecans, and pawpaws.

In the wild only a small percentage of seeds sprout and grow into seedlings. Of these only a few ever reach adulthood. You can give your little tree a huge advantage by following these simple instructions.

Warning! Sun Scald

Our potted trees are grown under shade cloth. As a result they can get sun scald (sun burn) very easily. Tree shelters/tubes/protectors provide the perfect amount of filtered light for them. Do not leave your tree out in direct sun for more than 30 minutes between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm during bright summer days. They can be acclimated to direct sun by exposure to morning and /or afternoon sunlight.

Site Selections

Most fruit and nut trees require a moist, well drained soil. Chestnuts require a slightly acidic soil, but will tolerate dryer, sandier soil than many other trees. Persimmons, pawpaws, and pecans will tolerate a much wider range of soil conditions (including periodic flooding) than most trees. Black walnuts are about the pickiest.

Spacing

Most of these trees will do well with a 20 x 20 foot spacing in the beginning, but may need to be thinned to 20 x 40 foot or 40 x 40 foot after 20 years. Pawpaws are small trees and a 10 x 10 foot or even 10x 20 foot spacing may be better for them.

Pollination

All of these trees require cross pollination - that is, two or more are required to set fruit or nuts. Persimmons and ginkgo trees are either male or female, and one of each are required for fruit or nuts.

Planting

Potted trees can be planted anytime the ground is thawed. Fall planting of potted trees needs to be done early enough so roots can grow into the surrounding, undisturbed soil and become anchored before the ground freezes. If planted too late, frost action may heave the tree out of the ground.

To avoid this, plant by mid October. Otherwise, you can mulch each tree with wood chips, 4 - 6 inches deep in a 3 - 4 foot circle.

To Plant

Water the trees pots thoroughly. If very dry (tree and pot feel light) soak in 2 - 6 inches of water for 2 hours. Allow to drain one hour before planting.

Dig a hole the same depth as the depth of the soil in the pot, no deeper.

Turn the pot upside down and shake pot. The goal is for the tree and root mass to slide out of the pot. Catch it in your hand as it comes out. Be careful not to allow the soil to fall away from the roots (pre-watering will help).

Place the root mass in the hole and hold it upright with one hand while you back fill around it with the other. Use only the native soil at the planting site. Avoid mixing in fertilizer, compost, or other additives.

