



Grimo Nut Nursery

979 Lakeshore Rd
Niagara-on-the-Lake. L0S1J0

Seed Stratification

Seeds must be stratified over the winter. If a seed is not exposed to sufficient moisture, proper temperature, and oxygen, the seed will not germinate.

The seed nuts you purchased are ready for stratifying. We have labeled the bags and recommend that you keep them labelled until planting.

Some of the nuts will be mixed with peat moss when you get them. **You will need to add water to the bags to moisten the peatmoss** just to the point of saturation without allowing water to stand in the bag. Small holes punched into the bottom of the bag will help to remove excess moisture. Gently mix the seed and moistened peat moss and place it in the refrigerator or in a cold storage location. It is important to avoid freezing at this stage. **Do not add any additional water to the chestnuts.**

Two months is the minimum time to refrigerate the seed in order to trigger the germination response. When the ground is ready for planting, possibly early May, place the seed in the ground about 5-8 cm (2-3 inches) deep. Orientation of the seed is not important because the seed will orient itself when it begins to grow. If the radical (white root) has emerged from the nuts at planting time, place it in the ground oriented downward. Be careful to not break this fragile root. After planting, water the area to ensure good seed to soil contact and to keep the seed properly moistened.

Seed will sprout when they are ready. While some will sprout in just a couple of weeks others might take up to the middle of summer. In some varieties like hazels and black walnut it can occasionally take up to 2 years to sprout.

Mark the planting site carefully as weeds will grow before the stem pops above the ground. Squirrels, chipmunks, racoons, opossum, mice, blue jays, grackles, and crows will find these newly planted nuts and sprouted trees. If these pests are a problem in your area, you will need to cover the seed with a hoop of chicken wire over the planted seeds to prevent these thieves.

If you decide to pot the seed, a tall container like a 2 litre milk carton is best. Shallow pots do not allow for the space need for the roots to grow. Plant the seed just below the surface to give the plant as much root space as needed. Punch holes near the bottom of the container for drainage. Use a good draining potting mix not natural garden soil. Garden soil does not drain well enough. Moisten the soil well before putting it in the pot. Potting can be started a month or more earlier in the spring than outdoor planting. Planted seed can be kept at room temperature to trigger germination. Once the sprout has emerged, it can be placed in a sunny location to grow.

Please note: We carefully hand pick and select our seeds from our own test orchards. Fall planting or cool stratification of seed is the responsibility of the buyer. We offer no warranty on seed.

For commercial nurseries it is very important that you do not use the parent name when selling trees grown from our seed. Seed stock is not clonally identical and the clonal name should not be used to identify the seedlings for sale. For example "Gene"sourced seed trees could be sold as "NY hybrid hazel seedlings" and "Carmela"sourced seed trees could be sold as "Niagara hybrid hazel seedlings".