

# Step-By-Step Instructions for Today's Chestnut Tree Planting

## Supplies Needed Before You Start

Tree  
Work gloves  
2 each gallon jugs of tap water  
1 wood stake  
1 pack fertilizer  
½ bag of mulch  
Shovel and hammer (or something to pound the wood stake into the ground)  
1 plastic protective barrier  
2 black plastic ties (to tie the tree to each of the stakes to keep tree in place)  
2 twistees

## Tree Planting Directions

1. Find a fluorescent orange flag/mark designated for a tree to be planted.
2. Take one tree from the tree pile and pick up the rest of your needed supplies.
3. Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly shallower than the root ball (this puts the aerated backfill soil where the new roots will grow and leaves a base of naturally firm soil for the root ball to rest on, which won't settle when watered).
4. Roughen the sides and bottom of your planting hole with a shovel so that root tips can penetrate the native soil. Smooth walls are like concrete to root tips.
5. Check the root ball of your tree for circling roots. Gently separate the roots, and guide them outward. Make sure the top of the root ball is about 1/2 to 1 inch above the surrounding soil.
6. Sight it upright! Once the tree is in the hole, stand back and make sure it's standing upright. Tilt the root ball until the tree is straight, then backfill firmly under and around it.
7. Sprinkle fertilizer pack around the tree.
8. Fill in the hole with the dirt you just uncovered. Using the handle end of your shovel, press down firmly to collapse any large air pockets in the soil. This will help stabilize the tree in the hole. Don't step on the root ball! You might separate the trunk from the roots. Don't wait until the planting is finished; press down every few shovels of soil.
9. Pour water around the root ball to encourage water penetration with a gallon of water. Fill several times to water deeply.
10. Position wood stake next to tree.
11. Pound wood stake into ground.
12. Wrap protective barrier around tree. Tie barrier together with 2 twistees
13. Place 2 plastic tree ties around stake (one near the top and one near the bottom of the barrier); attach tie through holes in the barrier to secure the stake and barrier together.
12. Cover the entire planting area, except a small circle at base of trunk, to a depth of 3-4 inches with mulch.
13. Give a name to your tree and let your tree captain know what it is! ***Please do not remove the tag ID number! We need this to track the trees progress for years to come!***

Congratulations! You have successfully planted a tree! Take a short break and help another group, or look for another mark where another tree needs to be planted and follow these directions again!

Thank you for helping us create a new grove of American Chestnut Trees that we will help nurture, maintain and monitor over the next few years. In a few days, check out our photo website where we will post all the photos from today's event at <http://patapscofriend.myphotoalbum.com/index.php>?

***Another fun environmental event sponsored by the Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway!***