



It's time to plan as 2022' is coming near.

We are working to be the one stop shop for nut trees!

What is in this newsletter?

- More cultivars are coming!
- What about pollen compatibility?
- How to plant a tree. Yes, even we need to be reminded occasionally
- Our NYTCA Cooperative updates!

The cultivars are coming! Hazelnuts are here and chestnuts are coming along.

If you want the best quality and highest yield of hazelnuts year after year, your best option is to plant cultivars not seedlings. Seedlings will do well for your back yard plantings but also having a superstar nut producer will make you happy knowing you will have nuts for your favorite dishes. Seedlings are like children you never know what you get but, a good parent gives a good chance of getting a good tree and those are the seedlings we sell. A named cultivar, like NITKA[®], is an identical copy of the mother tree, it also has the maturity to start producing some nuts the following year if properly planted and there is compatible pollen available. More on pollen compatibility below.

If planting out chestnut trees we believe the best option currently is seedlings. Chestnut trees have been hybridized for thousands of years and for the last hundred years regionally adapted trees have been proven to grow and produce well for the eastern half of North America. The other option is to plant grafted trees and we have seen too often where the graft dies and you end up with a seedling anyways. Ideally you will plant chestnut cultivars just like hazelnut cultivars and Z's Nutty will soon bring you chestnut cultivars as we have three cultivars in tissue culture.

To make planting hazelnuts as easy as possible for smaller orders, we are now putting together a hazelnut kit. You get your choice of two compatible hazelnut cultivars with two protective hardware cloth cages with nylon zip ties and two stakes for each tree. Also, we will have an option of getting a three-tree hazelnut kit with two seedlings, one cultivar and three cages with stakes and nylon zip ties.

So, what hazelnut cultivars do we have at Z's Nutty Ridge?

For Hazelnuts we have:

- [NITKA](#)[®],
- [Truxton](#),
- [Grand Traverse](#) ,
- "NEW" The [Beast](#)[™] PPAF this fall,
- "NEW" [Geneva](#) this spring.

We understand that cultivars are best but what about pollen compatibility?

Pollen compatibility is a must when planting only cultivars. If you plant a seedling or two with one or more cultivars you will have compatible pollen available to produce nuts. We take the guess work out by offering our hazelnut kits.

However, for those that are planting more than a few trees out we made a short presentation about cultivars, what makes a good cultivar and information on compatible pollen on our website [here](#). We also tell you where to buy cultivars for your USDA zone. In our presentation we list all the known cultivars and where to buy them. We do not have a problem buying from other nurseries and we are not endorsing them or are we getting any compensation from them. We just want you to be the best-informed customers and we want you to be as successful as possible.

Keep in mind that you can buy a tree for zone 4 if you live in a zone 6 but do not buy a tree for zone 6 in your Zone 4 location. In other words, you can plant a cold hardy tree in your warmer location but don't expect too much if you plant a less hardy tree in a colder location. Something listed in zone 6a is very risky to plant in USDA zone 4b. If you are risk tolerant go ahead and buy one or two trees to experiment. Finding the cold tolerant limits of every cultivar is appreciated by all growers.

[How to plant a tree – A reminder!](#)

Keep in mind when we say that cultivars can produce some nuts the following year it is based on planning ahead with the proper hole being dug and the tree is planted at the proper depth to get your tree off to a healthy start. It is probable that your trees will outlive all of us if given the initial proper care. A good overview of why and how to plant trees is [here](#) and how to specifically plant hazels go [here](#). However, there is one thing we see is done repeatedly and it might not get a tree off to its best start.

We oversee some amazing budding environmentalists that help plant out the American Chestnut trees in the springtime. When planting we are all busy trying to plant as many trees as we have time for and often during the rush we see where the best-intentioned person can repeatedly not get the tree off to the best start possible. What we mean by that is the tree is often planted too deep or too shallow. Often the trees we are planting will have roots of a certain size and depth, so the hole needs to be dug the same depth and ideally three times as wide and at least twice as wide. It is difficult to judge when we are back filling the soil around the bare root tree how to hold the stem at the proper height. So when you are done back filling to the original soil line, it hopefully remains the soil line after you gently pack the soil and water it in. We have found the best answer to that riddle is simply lay a thin stick across the hole when planting and you hold the original soil line on the tree at the bottom side of the stick while back filling, tamping in the soil and watering.

Proper planting depth rarely will kill a young tree, however the proper planting depth will help the tree do well the very first year in its new forever home.

Preparation is the best way to have a "green thumb".

We normally do not list our cultivars for sale before we dig them up in March. Since we have been increasing our orchards with mother trees we are comfortable listing a portion of the cultivars for sale and letting our newsletter members know about it first. Our store will be open for Hazelnuts (seedlings and cultivars), Heartnuts, chestnuts and we have a limited supply of 2 yr. old Finger Lakes Abundant seedlings. We are taking pre-orders for "The Beast". We do give discounts for orders over \$1000 and \$2500 please call or email for larger orders or tax-exempt orders. Supply is limited and we thank you for your patronage. Please feel free to email any questions, or feedback to info@znutty.com.

[Our NYTCA Cooperative updates!](#)

Our NYTCA Cooperative is working with Cornell to develop processes, and products in 2022'. Then based on the results of 2022' efforts we will buy the needed processing equipment in 2023'. This has been made possible by the [Edwards Mother Earth Grant](#). The grant will help lower the barriers to for everyone from all walks of life to plant, grow, harvest and process nuts by the NYCA Coop. This will allow for the grower to capture the maximum return possible for their efforts as the NYTCA Cooperative gives back all net proceeds back to the grower based on their patronage. We thank all

that help us get this grant and Tompkins County CCE to oversee this grant award. We at Z's Nutty Ridge LLC have been working toward this for the last 30 years developing and proving out nut trees for our region, so we can have a nut industry to fill all the fallow hillside fields throughout the Northeast.

Enjoy!

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Growing hazelnuts and chestnuts are easy. Get the [Book!](#)