

ART & NATURE PROGRAMME

Tree Propagation

How to Grow a Horse Chestnut Tree

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Growing trees using the seeds of the mother tree.

Tree propagation is an important skill to have to combat climate change! Here's how to grow a **Horse Chestnut Tree** from seed to sapling, to tree:

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Seed Collection

- Seeds should be collected during the autumn - search around the local area.
- Before planting them, make sure to:

1. Pry open the green husks to get the brown seed out, be careful as these can be spiky
2. Submerge the seeds (or 'conkers') in a bucket of water, any that float to the top are dead and will not grow!

Horse Chestnut Tree (Conker)



Planting the Seeds

- Prepare small pots with a mixture of soil and compost (~70%/30%).
- Make a **2cm** hole in the soil with your finger for each seed.
- Place the pots outside in a safe place, where they will get **4 hours** of sunshine.
- Water the pot(s) whenever the soil starts to dry out.

Note: Make sure the seeds are planted in **late autumn**, before the first frost (Around **October** to **November**).



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Tending to the Saplings



- The seeds will sprout the spring after you plant them.
- Make sure the pots are out of reach from birds and squirrels.
- Continue to water the pot as normal, when the soil is dry.
- Once the seedlings have grown to saplings, they will need to be transferred into bigger pots or the ground when they reach roughly **0.3m** - this could take up to a **year!**

From Sapling to Tree

- If the saplings are in a larger pot, make sure they are transferred into the ground within a few months so they do not out grow the pot.
- The hole in the ground should be as deep as the pot is that they come from.
- After the sapling is in the ground, they are good to grow by themselves!
- You may continue to water them if they are local, but nature will take care of the rest.

