

Chestnut

Castanea sativa · Beech family

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Deciduous perennial tree

MATURITY 4–7 years to first useful crop



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular while
establishing



SOIL PH
5.5–6.5



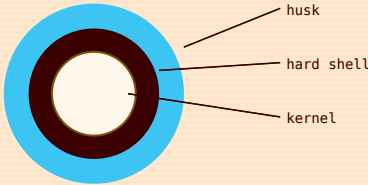
SPACING
8–12m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Spiky husk, needs a pollinator

Chestnuts grow inside a distinctive spiky burr that splits open at ripeness. Most varieties need a second, genetically different tree nearby for good pollination.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a potted or bare-root tree.
SOIL	Well-drained, slightly acidic — dislikes alkaline soil.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Chestnut blight** — a serious disease in some regions; source disease-resistant varieties locally.
- **Codling moth/weevil** — can affect developing nuts.
- **Poor pollination** — needs a genetically different second tree nearby.
- **Alkaline soil chlorosis** — yellowing leaves; keep soil pH on the acidic side.

03 Growing care

- Plant at least two different varieties for reliable pollination.
- Water regularly while establishing.
- Mulch well to retain soil moisture.
- Prune minimally once established.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Burrs split open and nuts drop naturally, typically autumn.
METHOD	Collect fallen nuts promptly, wearing gloves for the spiky husks.
CURING	Cure in a cool, airy spot for 1–2 weeks before storing.
STORAGE	Cool, humid spot (unlike most nuts) — chestnuts dry out if kept too dry; keeps weeks to a couple of months, longer refrigerated or frozen.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (curing nuts fully before storage) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Nothing needing full sun close by	Alkaline garden beds nearby	Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.