

Layering Hazelnuts and Chestnuts

**Brought to you by –
New York Nut Growers Association**

Presented by:

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Layering Hazelnuts and other suckers

Why Layer?

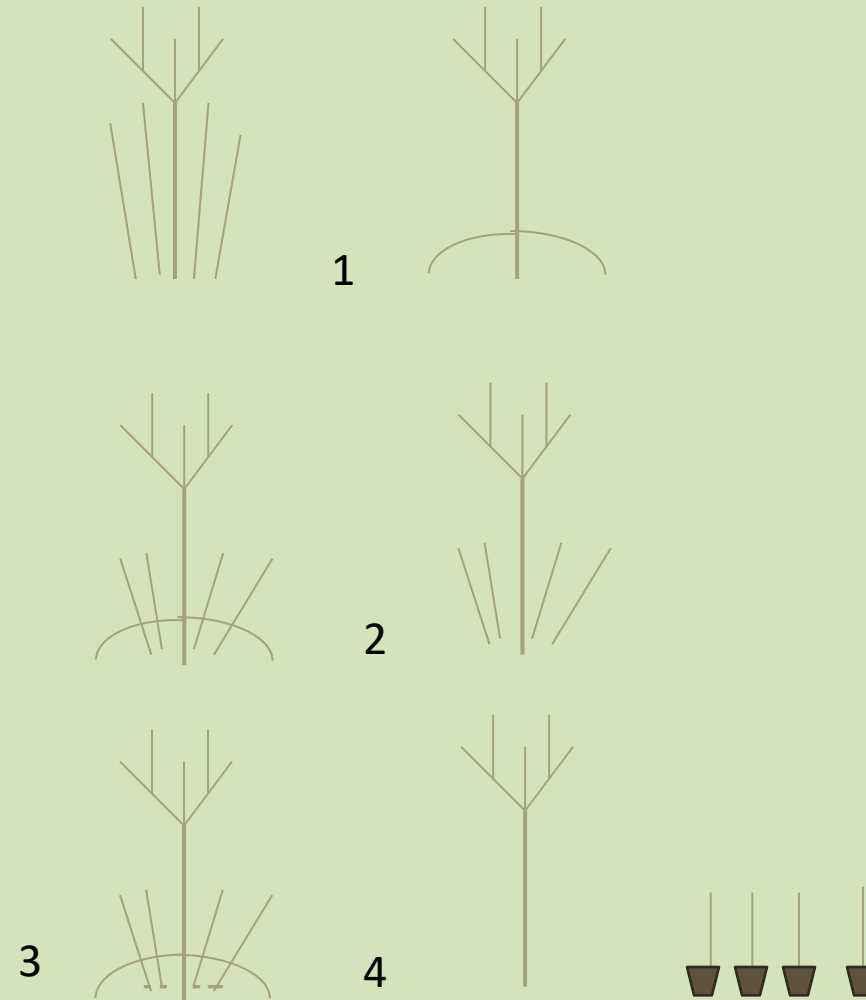
- Clone a superior tree.
- Nearly free.
- Clones have the maturity of the mother tree and produce in one to three years.
- This describes process for hazelnuts but maybe applied to chestnuts(still learning) and other trees that produce suckers.

Layering - Overview

Many trees produce suckers at base.

Steps:

1. Trim stems late fall, potting soil at base Feb-April.
2. Let suckers grow, pull dirt away – June/July
3. Scrape bark, + hormone, and tie off
4. Remound soil, wait till following spring, cut base at native soil



Layering – Items Needed

#	Item	Comment
1	Plastic or heavy weight tar paper	Hold the soil/ compost in place and moisture retention
2	Stakes	Holds the Tar paper in place
3	Hammer	For pounding stakes in
4	Office stapler and heavy-duty stapler	Staple the ends of tar paper and tar paper to the stakes
5	Nylon ties > 75 lb	Put on below the scar
6	Brush	Applicator for hormone
7	IBA-k 2000 ppm	Indole Butyric Acid Salt, 2 grams per liter = ¼ tsp./16 oz.
8	Hand pruner	Cut out the small <10"or >30" or crowded suckers
9	pocket knife	Scrape the stem 2" long and an inch above the native soil



Indole Butyric Acid Water Soluble IBA-K >98% Pure indole-3-butyric acid 25 Grams:
Amazon.com: Industrial & Scientific

Layering – Step #1

- Removing all suckers from the base of the tree in the fall.
- Early spring place down a three to six inch layer of mulch/ compost at base of tree two feet in diameter.
- Late June early July they are ready to be layered.



Layering – Step #2

- Late June early July pull much away
- Cut out smaller suckers (<12”) or ones that are less than two inches apart.



Layering – Step #2

- Place 75lb or stronger nylon ties (a.k.a. zip ties) at native soil line.
- Scrape one side of the sucker about 1.5 inches long.



Layering – Step #3

- Dilute 2 grams of IBA-k per liter of H₂O, So, ¼ teaspoon per 16oz.
- Scrape one side of the sucker about 1.5 inches long.
- Paint on hormone completely around the stem.
- Allow to dry a couple minutes.



Layering – Step #4 Cont'd.

Harvesting your clones

- Wait till dormant late fall/following spring.
- Pull off tarpaper.
- Dig between native soil line and compost.
- Cut sucker stem at native soil line.
- Gently tease your new clone free from compost.



Layering – Step #2

- Place 75lb or stronger nylon ties (a.k.a. zip ties) at native soil line.
- Scrape one side of the sucker about 1.5 inches long.



Layering – Chestnuts

- SARE Grant for stool bed layering of Chestnuts 2022-2023

Learning:

- Timing of when to layer is important – sucker growth slows?
- Cinnamon paste instead of IBA maybe an organic alternative method to produce roots.
- Need replication to validate this year.



Layering Hazelnuts

Thank You!

Have more questions?

Please post them on our Facebook page at:

[New York Nut Growers Association/ NYNGA \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkNutGrowersAssociation/)

Or visit

[NY Nut Growers Association Home Page \(nynga.org\)](https://www.nynga.org)

