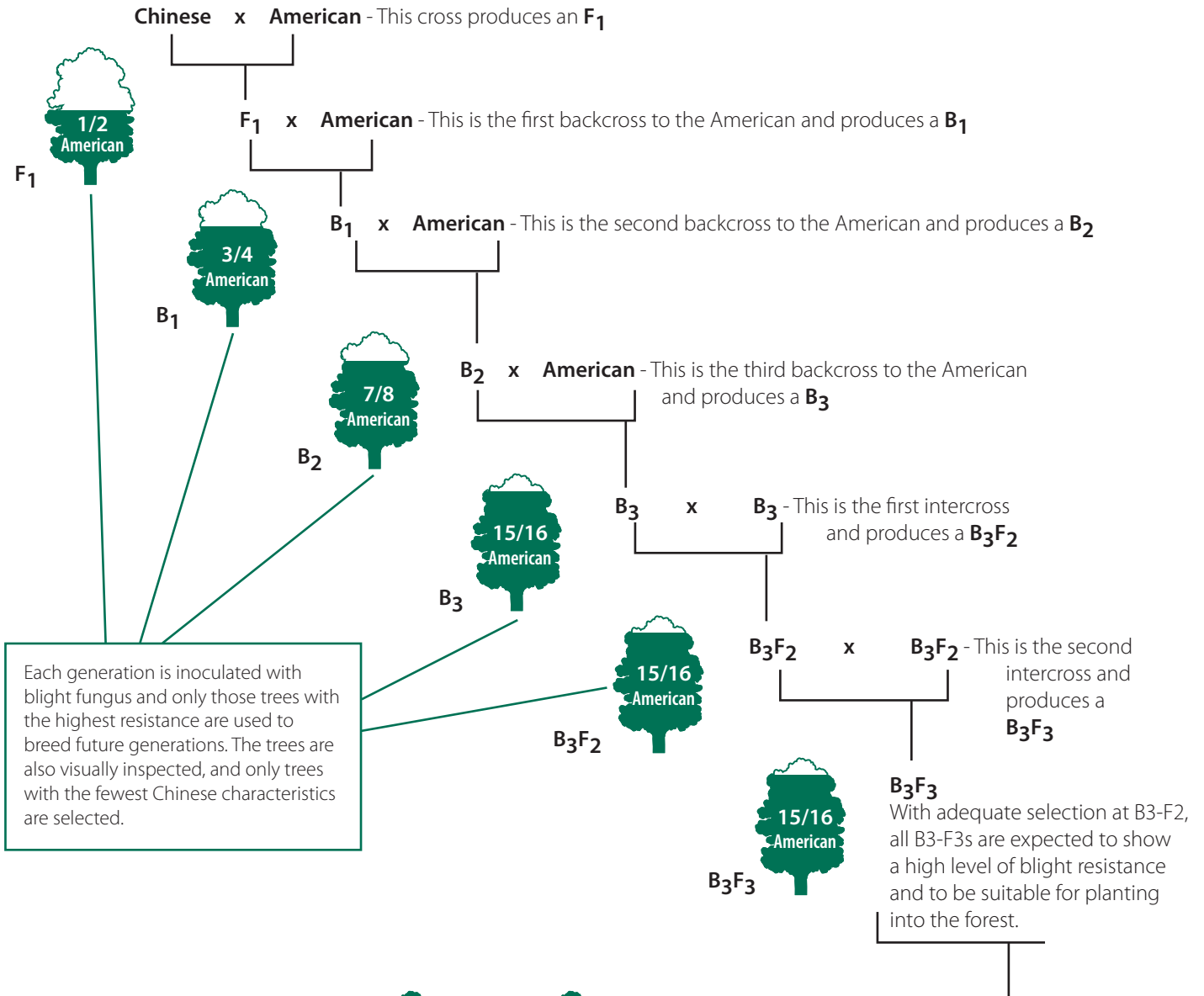


THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION'S BACKCROSS BREEDING PROGRAM

TACF's backcross breeding program begins by crossing an American chestnut and a Chinese chestnut. This is followed by three successive generations of crossing back to American chestnut trees to restore American characteristics. In between each breeding step, the trees are inoculated with blight fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) and only those trees showing strong blight resistance and American characteristics are chosen to breed additional generations. For the final two generations, trees with proven blight resistance are intercrossed with each other to eliminate genes for susceptibility to blight introduced from the American parents.



Each generation is inoculated with blight fungus and only those trees with the highest resistance are used to breed future generations. The trees are also visually inspected, and only trees with the fewest Chinese characteristics are selected.

Breeding, testing and evaluation continues.

TACF's breeding program will continue to integrate additional sources of blight resistance into the breeding populations. For more information on TACF's breeding and restoration programs call 1-(828)- 281-0047 or visit our website at www.acf.org.



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