



THE  
AMERICAN  
CHESTNUT  
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# TACF Fact Sheet

ID# Species  
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## Chestnut Species Comparison: *How to Tell the Different Species Apart*

There are five species of chestnut found in the Eastern U.S.: American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), Chinese chestnut (*C. mollissima*), Japanese chestnut (*C. crenata*), European chestnut (*C. sativa*) and Allegheny chinkapin (*C. pumila*).

For help with chestnut species identification, or instructions for submitting a leaf sample for ID analysis, please visit us online: [www.acf.org/resources/identification/](http://www.acf.org/resources/identification/)

All chestnuts can cross-pollinate. Hybrid chestnuts are difficult to identify and may exhibit a range of characteristics attributable to the different species in the pedigree.



Top: Allegheny chinkapin leaf; Bottom (l-r): American, Chinese, European and Japanese chestnut leaves.

	American	Chinese	Japanese	European	Chinkapin
Leaf Thickness	thin	thick	thick	thick, stiff	n/a
Leaf Shape	canoe	row boat	oblong	canoe	small, oval
Leaf Shininess	dull	shiny	shiny	dull	shiny
Dentations	large, hooked	wedge or bristle	bristle	large, no hook	small, no hook
Bud Shape	pointed, pyramidal	oval or round	rounded	large, globular	pointed
Bud Color	red-brown to yellow	tan to pea green	glossy brown	dark red	dark red
Bud Hairiness	not hairy	hairy	not hairy	not hairy	hairy
Stipules	narrow, not persistent	flared, persistent	flared, persistent	n/a	narrow, persistent
Twig Color	red-brown	tan to pea green	pink to light red	dark brown	tan to purple
Twig Hairiness	not hairy	hairy	hairy	not hairy	hairy
Petiole Angle	acute	obtuse	obtuse	obtuse	acute
Relative Stem Size	slender	thick	medium	stout	medium
Lenticels Size	small, white	large, yellow	large, white	small, white	n/a
Simple Hairs on Leaf Veins	yes, long	yes, short	yes	yes	yes
Simple Hairs on Interveinal Areas	no	yes	yes	can be	yes