



CHESTNUT CHAT SERIES: Q & A
CHAT 11: RESTORATION OF AMERICAN CHESTNUT TO FOREST LANDS
DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020

QUESTION	ASKER NAME	ASKER EMAIL	ANSWER(S)
How drought resistant are chestnuts?	Frank Skalak	mathob@icloud.com	live answered
I'm interested in the site selection process. What sort of forest, I'm assuming a mixed oak one would be best? What is the legality process, I assume it depends on what type of forest, state, federal, or county? Is one easier to work with than another?	Cindy	ingramcx@dukes.jmu.edu	live answered
"Will the slides and any additional documents used to be posted for download at the ACF site? If not, can they be sent to participants of the webinar?"	mizunonewcomputer	geary.mizuno@rcn.com	"Hi - Thank you for your question. All of the Chestnut Chat material can be found here https://www.acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/
How would prescribed burning be implemented into the restoration program?	Ken Law	ka_law@msn.com	live answered
Can you describe how you group seed size?	Taylor Evans	evanstb611@gmail.com	live answered
I would be interested in knowing the dimensions of the wire mesh deer shelters used. Wire fence is expensive and I'd like to minimize the size of my shelters.	G kotnik	gakotnik@comcast.net	live answered
Would like to withdraw my question. I realize that this is seedling plantings (vs seed plantings) and on Federal land.	Cindy	ingramcx@dukes.jmu.edu	live answered
As with Grapes, have we ever tried a Phytophthora resistant specie (other than American Chestnut) to splice onto to eradicate root rot?	Robbie	oakcreekgirl@gmail.com	American or B3F3 chestnut could be grafted onto Chinese chestnut rootstock, which is PRR-resistant. Chestnut grafts do tend to fail after a number of years and this is not expected to be a long-term solution. TACF is breeding for PRR-resistance. And as Stacy pointed out, proper site selection can also help with preventing this issue.
I studied ovenbird foraging and reproductive ecology in the Pisgah in 2002-2003. This is the densest intact contiguous	Will Boyd	will@homeschoolscience.org	live answered



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forest in the Appalachians. Happy to see the work you all are doing!!			
Put up website address again.	Stout's	dstout354@gmail.com	https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/staff/stacyclark
Are mesh tree shelters used with stakes? What deer repellent is used and application frequency? Any likely possibility that USFS will develop a written guide/protocol for chestnut restoration for private individuals?			https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/women-in-science/stacy-clark/
Are remaining pockets of wild/native chestnuts expected to migrate northward w climate changes?	mizunonewcomputer	geary.mizuno@rcn.com	live answered
What pesticide would you recommend to reduce pest for the first few years of growth	Mikel	ml_biz@hotmail.com	live answered
Are the healthy 10-year old out plantings reproducing?	Don	dprivett7d@gmail.com	Pesticides really need to be matched to the pest in question. The best approach is to monitor regularly, identify any pests that make an appearance, and if the damage requires treatment an appropriate treatment can be identified. Not all insect pests cause enough damage to require treatment, especially as the trees grow and can better handle some level of damage.
The ultimate height of the American chestnut is much greater than the Chinese. Do you know yet where the hybrids fall in comparison?	Rod Walker - PRISM	rwalker@alum.mit.edu	live answered
How does long term blight resistance of the B3F3 hybrids compare to the GMO plants from SUNY	Charles Eubanks	eubanks.charles@gmail.com	live answered
At what elevation did you plant at and which elevation is best for your plantings?	charles cleland	ccland39@gmail.com	The transgenic chestnuts from SUNY are still regulated and only planted in a few permitted sites.



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			While a couple comparison plantings of B3F3 and TG chestnuts have been established recently, they have not been in the ground long enough to assess or compare their long-term blight resistance. Stay tuned!
Young chestnuts in extremely sandy soils in RI were not drought resistant! We lost about 75% several years w/o irrigation in Westerly	Roger Willby	rwiredraw@aol.com	live answered
Do you recommend spring or fall planting for seedlings?	Yvonne Federowicz	yvonne.federowicz@gmail.com	live answered
Are seedlings of BC3F3 or other GM varieties available to private landowners for their own plantings?	Jeff Briggs	jbriggs200@nycap.rr.com	live answered
My comments. I have been trying to grow these for 35 years. To am in Ohio with mixed results. My personal opinion is they can't compete with oaks because not drought resistant enough. My current opinion is that if the sight won't grow tulip tree don't grow chestnut. This is consistent with what an excellent 2012 publication on chestnut ecology by ACF. Site quality on hilly site can change within a few feet. Pure plantings or even planting too many make the trees very vulnerable to deer.	Jim Wilcox	jim.wilcox@ieee.org	Private landowners can support TACF as seed level members and get a small number of B3F3 chestnuts. TACF will work with landowners for research plantings as well. Transgenic chestnuts are currently regulated and not available to the public. https://support.acf.org/membership
Further comments. I have tried shelters and they worked poorly. I have planted accidentally by a deer trail with no deer problems but they were well mixed with other vegetation. "Security by obscurity" pure stands of hardwoods don't exist. I can stand one place in woods and see at least 15 different trees.	Frank Skalak	mathob@icloud.com	live answered



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Comment on seed production. Some produced seeds in 5 years and others 15 years or more. Similar planting conditions	Frank Skalak	mathob@icloud.com	live answered
How does seed size, and a resulting better head start for the seedling, translate into 1 or 2 yr. survivability?	Frank Skalak	mathob@icloud.com	live answered
Can you speak to any differences in success rates when plantings are done in recently cleared or thinned pine stands due to mycorrhizal conditions?	Jim English	jenglish@netzero.com	live answered
Any work done on leaf area between the three types of seedlings planted (e.g. deeper or fuller canopies on one species versus the other)?	Martin McAllister	martin.mcallister@tnc.org	live answered
Not all grow fast. I have had trees stay small for years and then decide to grow. No rhyme or reason. The ones that I have had grew fast got the blight quicker and died. I feel I know less about how to grow these than I did when I started.	JW	treesrock@gmail.com	live answered