



CHESTNUT CHAT – Q & A
CHAT # 21: IMPORTATIONS AND CHESTNUT CULTIVARS
DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

QUESTION	ASKER NAME	ASKER EMAIL	ANSWER(S)
How is Dick Jaynes doing	Anonymous Attendee		live answered
Are visits allowed to the Ct. Ag station?	David Marinelli	dmarinelli@longmeadow.k12.ma.us	Sure. But not right now because of COVID. Assuming restrictions are reduced, try to visit in 2022. Farm hours are 8am - 4pm every day. It is private, not public property. There is a gate and people have been known to get locked in!
Where is it?	Jim Pelletier	wanderer0131@yahoo.com	CAES, Lockwood is in Hamden CT. Visit Sandy's webpage linked to the Chestnut Chat page on ACF.ORG for directions and more information.
Can a private landowner get a perfectly healthy 11 year old American Chestnut pollinated by the OXO pollen via a third party license from the FDA?	Thomas Levesque	freetomme@yahoo.com	
voice from the past, Boyd from western Ky, thanks for helping me find Japanese trees in LBL, there are 5 left - thanks	boyd caddell	paducah1980@yahoo.com	live answered
Mike, How many cultivars did you bring with you to Missouri from California?	Hill	Hill-Craddock@utc.edu	live answered
I live in the Sipsey Wilderness, Bankhead Forest in Alabama. I am interested in growing American Chestnuts. I bought a few dead baby trees at the Tractor Supply. Do you know where I can buy some seeds?	Debbie Kimsey	originalworldhealth@gmail.com	<p>I love that area. my wife grew up in Molton , Haton area. I loved to hunt and hike that wildlife area. I live in WV now. I have about 40 chestnut trees growing here.</p> <p>There are a lot of places to get chestnuts. TACF offers seed from our most advanced trees in the breeding program to seed level members: https://support.acf.org/membership and we also offer American chestnut seedling sales once/year - coming up in early March.</p> <p>If you are looking for cultivars or other species just do a quick internet search - there are several nurseries you can order from</p>
do cultivar seeds reproduce identical offspring?	Robbie Shaw	js4501@aol.com	live answered



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my comment was for Sandy (Dr. A)	boyd caddell	paducah1980@yahoo.com	ok - thanks!
There is burgeoning interest in growing chestnut trees, both seedlings and grafts. Do you (both Sandy and Mike) have scion wood available? If so, cultivars and quantity?	Greg	empirechestnut@gmail.com	live answered
species, hybrid, or cultivar. What can we do using genetics to identify specifics? Is our genetics good enough to make these distinction and do we have a library of genetic indicators to do this? Is this something someone is working on?	Jim C	c@gmail.com	There are a few university research teams that have developed, or are developing, tools for genetically identifying chestnut species present in submitted samples. But as discussed live, none publically available yet.
to take this one step further... where does tissue culture fit into this...	Jim C	c@gmail.com	Tissue culture of chestnut is tough and works well for some individuals and not great for others. At this point it is not a tool used for commercial production.
Why would they import European chestnuts when we had the American chestnut? Was the taste superior or did they not like the gigantic size of the American species?	Raymond Honeycutt	raymond501c3@gmail.com	Hi Raymond - European chestnuts were important primarily because a lot of immigrants were from Europe and most accustomed to that species. Also, in general, the European chestnut has much larger nuts than that of the American chestnut. For almost all culinary purposes, there is a much greater preference for larger nut size. Thank you! My interest in the American chestnut is for biodiversity and carbon sequestration (adding another 20 feet to the forest canopy, but flavor is important for continued propagation.
Do cultivar scions which have blight resistance bring their resistance onto the grafted tree, e.g. a hybrid scion onto a 100% American seedling?	Thomas Levesque	freetomme@yahoo.com	No, the scion does not transform or transmit resistance to the rootstock. Thanks Hill! The scion will retain whatever resistance it may have but does not pass it on to the rootstock. Genetic information is not shared by grafting. if planted with graft below ground level will this protect Am Ches from blight infection?



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Can Sandy elaborate on what 'chinkapin' means?	Chance Perks	perks.of.life@gmail.com	Hi Chance - a chinkapin is a different species of chestnut. Chinkapins have 1 nut per bur and "true" chestnuts have 3 nuts per bur. There are 3 species of chinkapins in the Castanea genus.
doesn't the propagation of all these cultivars go to the detriment of the goal of TACF to breed American back to the chestnut range?	Robbie Shaw	js4501@aol.com	No, we are talking about growing chestnuts as a nut crop
Given that cultivars such as 'Sleeping Giant' are hybrids, if you have many of them growing together and pollinating each other, will you get wide variation in phenotype among the offspring? For example, could some offspring be significantly more blight resistant, more cold tolerant, etc.?	Mike Aucott	mlaucott@gmail.com	Yes, good observation. Seedlings from these complex hybrids vary greatly in all of their heritable characters. live answered
what do adult gall wasps prey on?	Anonymous Attendee		live answered Lynn Riske-Kinny (entomologist) confirms there are no male gall wasps, but the adults eat/drink plant exudates. FYI
https://www.ct.gov/sla doesn't work error 404 page not found	Jack Morris	rogerrocket@noname.net	www.ct.gov/caes/sla
I've tried the website that is presented and it doesn't seem to work.	Judy Artley	judy.artley@gmail.com	www.ct.gov/caes/sla
it seems that recently on some of my trees i'm getting a late/second bloom and burs. but there is not enough time to mature... why is this happening?	Pietro catizone	pacccm520@gmail.com	freeze out of early emerged growth. saw this in Dunstans this year whole crop was lost, only had some scraggly secondary Calkins no secondary burrs(postulate flowers). I am in central VA, East side of Blue Ridge, pure Chinese and Amer were not affected by freeze live answered



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are all chestnuts not able to self pollinate	Dan Lefever	bioratpa@gmail.com	Correct - chestnut needs a pollination partner to produce viable seeds
How can you determine the lineage of a hybrid if you have one?	JimE	jenglish@netzero.com	<p>In other words is there someone doing Geno-typing?</p> <p>There are a few university researchers that can do chestnut genotyping, however I am not aware of any that are available to the general public to just send in samples. They are typically assessed as part of research projects. There are several in the chestnut world that do mophological ID and can give you a good idea of what you might have. But morphological ID is not an exact science, especially with hybrids.</p>
I bought several “Hybrid Chestnut trees, similar to the Dunstan Chestnuts,” from Tree Pro in Lafayette, Indiana. That is all they told me. How can I find out the lineage of those hybrids?	Eric	eric.massant@gmail.com	<p>DNA analysis</p> <p>They are essentially Chinese, according to the published info on them.</p> <p>You can read more about 'Dunstan' here: https://acf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Chestnut_Winter2016_lr.pdf</p>
If the tree does not produce pollen, how does it reproduce?	carolfalcetti	falcettiosofsky@fairpoint.net	<p>You just have to have one that does produce pollen near the one that doesn't. Cross pollination. Male-sterile trees are pollinated by the next nearest pollen producing chestnut tree</p> <p>Typically the issue is finding trees producing female flowers. Chestnuts produce male and female flowers on the same tree. Often chestntus will produce male catkins and pollen earlier in their development.</p> <p>But if a tree is not flowering it does not reproduce and if it does not have a pollination partner it will not reproduce viable nuts. And as Hill notes, chestntus can be male-sterile, in which case they cannot pollinate another tree, but can be pollinated by a nearby pollen source.</p>
Chestnuts are generally considered to be self-infertile.	Hill	Hill-Craddock@utc.edu	live answered



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I spotted a flowering American Chestnut in wooded forest, but did not find any other flowering trees. Later I visited the tree, but there were no burs even though it appeared healthy and had liver branches with green leaves. In the past, I have found that unfertilized trees produce burs with sterile nuts. This tree did not. Any reason why this was so?	Jack Morris	rogerrocket@noname.net	Hi Jack -most likely the tree was not producing female flowers. Catkin production is more noticable and common in woodland trees.
Is there a collective shareable document that ranks available cultivars by these evaluated traits? I know thats asking a lot especially for it to be driven by data and very context explicit but anecdotal on many of these points would be super helpful too	erikhagan	erik@savannainstitute.org	live answered
What does "roots well" mean?	Kevin Millar	kjmilow@yahoo.com	Propagated by cuttings
Are gall wasps specific to chestnuts? Or can they be hosted by other trees?	John L Vanco	john.vanco@gmail.com	It's complicated...
It's complicated...	Hill	Hill-Craddock@utc.edu	live answered
My ancestral land in England has ancient Chestnut trees in this video if you are interested in checking it out. They belong to the Croft Castle land in Hereforeshire. They are hundreds of years old. -Deborah Kimsey https://youtu.be/AZgy6CITFMI	Debbie Kimsey	originalworldhealth@gmail.com	Neat - thanks for sharing!
I bought 2 Chestnut seedlings from Musser Forests about 15 years ago. One of them "failed to thrive." It had a lot of problem with witches brooms and not growing vertically. It never flowered. I destroyed it this fall. The other one is doing great and has both flowers and nuts. Last year the nuts appeared to sterile, but this year they	Bruce Irvine	irvine.bruce@gmail.com	1/4-1/2 mile is reasonable for cross pollination of chestnut. As discussed live, DNA testing is not yet available to the public. Transgenic chestnuts from SUNY-ESF will not be available for a couple years still. We don't expect a decision from USDA on deregulation, realistically, until 2022.



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are fertile. The nearest chestnut tree is about 1/8-1/4 mile away (Chinese). How can I get the DNA test for my tree and when will the "Syracuse" nuts be available?			
For Sandra: Am I correct that you've said that there are essentially no pure large Americans growing in the wild, that if we find a blooming tree, it's almost certainly a hybrid? Is this actually your view?	Mike Aucott	mlaucott@gmail.com	
Aside from gall wasps, are there other insect species that are known to depend on American chestnut? Are any of them obligate consumers of American chestnut?	Rebecca Pearlson Horwitt	ruh212@psu.edu	<p>Great question! Might ask Doug Tallamay U of DE</p> <p>I had no idea gall wasps would live on anything but oak ; Chestnut gall wasp is an introduced species I believe</p> <p>I don't have a comprehensive list handy but there was at least one, perhaps more, moth species that were dependant on chestnut and have died out. There is also a "chestnut bee" that had been thought gone but been seen a few times in the last couple of years.</p>
Would it have been possible to breed high quality (pure) C. dentata cultivars if blight had never been introduced?	Erik Carlson	ehcarlo@syr.edu	<p>Yes, was probably already happening by superior selections until, maybe not specific known crosses until blight started, late 1800"s there were farms of cultivar orchards being established.</p> <p>The nut size of C. dentata is too small to be of much commercial interest. Most early efforts were therefore focused on the larger fruited species.</p> <p>Absolutely - breeding for tree improvement is common in many species and in the absence of blight would be easy enough. As Hill notes, might not have been pursued from a nut production standpoint, but perhaps timber qualities would have been of interest.</p>



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How can we get any of the scion wood from some of these cultivars. Is there a place to buy scion wood or trade scions.	Marshall	quercusfalcata@earthlink.net	live answered
where is Michael located?	Steve Jeffers	sjffrs@clemsn.edu	Missouri
Is there a taste and size description guide available? Hearing about it from Mike is interesting, but having a reference guide would be interesting.	Raymond Honeycutt	raymond501c3@gmail.com	live answered
what is being done to produce nut type Am ches with the 15/16 resistance that are not timber type? I know of a nut type "pure" am ches that produces a thousand burrs a year but almost no nuts due to no pollen, need to propagate it for its gene type and breeding	Dan Lefever	bioratpa@gmail.com	
Are all hybrids cultivars, or only a minority?	Eric	eric.massant@gmail.com	only becomes a cultivated variety (cultivar) when propagated asexually live answered
where can I get scion for Bergantz and Gillet.	Tom	tmpugel1@verizon.net	live answered
Comments about Timber looking 50-100 years ahead?	Tex	texlandis@aol.com	
Are some rootstock easier to graft to?	Tom	tmpugel1@verizon.net	
Re the last question - wuldn't they also have the likelihood of being less resistant?	Bill Russell	warussell99@gmail.com	
I collected some nuts from various chinese chestnut trees and each nut looked good. However, everyone maybe a couple of weeks later showed a hole and when I opened them up, they had been infected by some sort of insect. Is this common and do cultivars need to be treated with insecticides?	Jack Morris	rogerrocket@noname.net	



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What is Bernie's nursery?	Kevin Millar	kjmilow@yahoo.com	live answered
We're planning to plant a grove. Is there any reason not to just pick a random variety of cultivars that seem like the might be good for our location?	John L Vanco	john.vanco@gmail.com	
what are the best places to purchase chestnuts for culinary uses?	Robbie Shaw	js4501@aol.com	for the past 2 years our markets have imported nuts and they are IMPOSSIBLE to peel. where are you located... hehe There are several great suppliers you can find with a quick internet search, or check out the coops in Michigan or Ohio. NNGA may also have good recommendations.
Are the ACF hybrid seedlings sterile?	Raymond Honeycutt	raymond501c3@gmail.com	No. The TACF seedlings should be male fertile.
I'm in South Glastonbury, CT	Pietro catizone	paccm520@gmail.com	thanks!
phoenix, arizona	Robbie Shaw	js4501@aol.com	live answered
I am in Portland, Maine. About 15 years ago, I planted two seedlings I got from ACF. They grew vigorously for 12-13 years then succumbed to the blight. Is it possible to graft a scion onto one of their sucker branches?	Stephen Small	lahuela@gmail.com	Yes - you can graft onto chestnut stumps. But chestnut grafting is tough - it takes some practice. There are some good resources for learning on our website: https://acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/ Yes, you can graft onto root sprouts. Blight will probably kill those shoots, too
THanks for taking the time. Much appreciated!	Dawn & Jeff Zarnowski	jeffz@znutty.com	Thanks for tuning in!
Excellent presentations!!	Kevin Millar	kjmilow@yahoo.com	Thanks for joining!
So much to learn! Thanks everyone!	Dennis Liu	dwcliu@gmail.com	Thanks for joing us!



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Than k you All! Great talks and info!	garywilson	garw29@gmail.com	
Would like to get Michael's e-mail address.	Ivan James	ijamesii53@gmail.com	

