Planting and Growing Chestnut Trees

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• Site selection
• Seed vs seedling & Planting strategies
• Geography
• Maintenance
Site Selection

• Well-drained, acidic soils

• Avoid:
  • Clay soils
  • Wet soils
  • Hard-packed soils
Upland, Oak-Hickory Forest vs Bottomland, Fertile, Mesic Sites
Site Selection

• Exposure:
  • open sites vs forested sites
  • old fields vs clear cuts
Site Preparation

Depends on site conditions

• Remove surrounding vegetation
• No grasses or weeds
• Mechanical and/or herbicide controls
• Dig a big hole
Seed vs Seedling

- Direct seed
Seed vs Seedling

- Planting a seed
Seed vs Seedling

- Planting a seed
Seed vs Seedling

• Planting a seed
Seed vs Seedling

• Planting a seed
• Seed starter
  **Must drain well
  • Peat/perlite/vermiculite
  • Native soil or composted forest products (pine fines or pine bark mulch)
  • Commercial mixes
  • Raised bed garden soil
Seed vs Seedling

- Direct seed
- Containerized seedlings
  - Bigger seedlings are better
  - Remove the nut
  - Harden off
Seed vs Seedling

- Direct seed
- Containerized seedlings
- Bare root seedlings
  - Plant right away
  - Avoid dry roots
Geography

- Direct seed as soon as you can work the soil
- Seedlings:
  - north, after last frost
  - South, fall through winter, or early spring
Winter injury?
Drought
Location: South

Drought

Phytophthora
Location: South

Drought
Phytophthora
Ambrosia beetles
Maintenance

- Deer protection
Maintenance

• Deer protection
• Tree tubes
Maintenance

- Deer protection
- Tree tubes
- Control weeds/grasses
Thank you!