



CHESTNUT CHAT – Q & A
CHAT # 24: SITE SELECTION AND PLANTING
DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

| QUESTION | ASKER NAME | ANSWER(S) |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| <p>Questions concerning hypovirulence</p> <p>1 - Are there any vendors who sell wild type American chestnut trees pre-inoculated with hypovirulence?</p> <p>2 – Does hypovirulence work on B3F3 chestnut trees?</p> <p>Question concerning speed breeding</p> <p>Are there plans to use speed breeding to backcross the B3F3 late generation American hybrids with pure Chinese chestnuts in an effort to gather up even more of the Chinese chestnut’s resistant genes for inclusion the American hybrid program and if so what estimate of time frame for success using speed breeding as it took 40+ years to get to present level with traditional breeding strategies.</p> | rcalcaterra | live answered |
| <p>Is there any interest in creating a high school extension of the Foundation? I would love to get my high school students involved in the identification and conservation efforts. Who do I contact to get that started? State contact?</p> | Anonymous Attendee | |
| <p>Just FYI- The ACF is starting and new GCO with the Wilton Land Conservation Trust here in CT tomorrow. As the Treasurer of this Trust, we are very excited about joining the effort to re-establish this great iconic tree on our new 13 acre open space meadow at 183 Ridgefield Rd. .</p> | Mike Foster | live answered |
| <p>I planted three back cross chestnuts seeds from about 7-8 years ago. Are they B3/F3?</p> | " | live answered |



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| Speaking of germplasm orchards, do you happen to know if there are any in the Carolinas? Or other ACF plantings | Daniel Washburn | live answered |
| They were something that I got for contributiing extra \$ to the foundation | " | live answered; seed level information that Sara just mentioned. https://support.acf.org/membership |
| Ordinary citizen here: Who can obtain and plant genetically modified chestnuts? | Frances Verter | live answered |
| Previously planting had to be in a monitored, curated setting . I work for a big water supply agency that does not have such a maintenance program - but we have a lot of land being worked on (this project Westchester County, NY) and I believe this project may go for "Envision" Certification which means we get points for Infrastructure that is 'Environmentally Restorative.'" (I am an architect with NY City Department of Environmental Protection). So, can we include Chestnuts if we don't do follow- up maintenance? That's my question. | John HARRINGTON | live answered |
| Just curious,,is it true that individuals from the Va Div of Forestry came upon a grove of Am chestnut trees in Wisconsin,,Allegedly seeds brought by Civil War ve | Harry Tenney | live answered |
| is there an easy way to test the ph of our soil? | CHRIS ROY | live answered |
| How do you overcome the red-clay mud challenge of the southeast? | Hope Myers | |
| What role does the element Calcium play in soil composition for Chestnut trees? | Jack Morris | live answered |



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| <p>Partly question, partly comment. We planted in an area that had a high sand content. Did ok until got a dry spell or dry year and did not work out well. They absolutely do not do well on wet soil. You can get very wet soil even on a small ridge. I think there was an under layer of clay.</p> <p>Soil type can change rapidly. Toward top of ridge won't grow. 20 feet lower grow well. Another 20 feet and don't do well.</p> <p>Mid slope has worked best for us. There are always exceptions.</p> | frank | live answered |
| <p>Do squirrels do detailed soil surveys? They seem to find the right place for planting a lot of different trees.</p> | frank | live answered |
| <p>Old farmland (planting stopped 1930). Compacted layer 2-3" thick at ~14" below surface. Is this fragipan? First 14" contains organic material. Below 16" is sand. Your thoughts on suitability.</p> | Steve Johnstonbaugh | <p>live answered</p> <p>Look into that link I put in the chat. might help.</p> <p>Daikon radish helps break up soil. see latest Chestnut mag.</p> <p>Just got the same recommendation (Daikon) from Ernst seed.</p> |
| <p>What's K-sat?</p> | John HARRINGTON | <p>There is a better explanation in Sara's presentation, that will be posted after the chat, but this may give you some idea: "Saturated hydraulic conductivity" is the ease with which pores of a saturated soil transmit water. Formally, it is the proportionality coefficient that expresses the relationship of the rate of water movement to hydraulic gradient in Darcy's Law (a law that describes the rate of water movement through porous media).</p> |
| <p>I thought early on you said that you wanted depth to bedrock over four to six feet. But later you talked about depth to bedrock of 60 to 99 inches not being ideal. What am I missing?</p> | Clark Beebe | live answered |



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| Do yo reccomend soil food web analysis or mycorhyzae analysis? | Alan Cohen | live answered A few labs offer soil critter analysis which is important to organic growers. springtails, fungi, bacteria. |
| Will Chestnut trees grow well where oak trees thrive? | Don Stever | live answered |
| I am following TACF as a representative of North Central Forest Landowners Assoc of Pennsylvania, encompassing forest owners in a 4 county area. In the last chat someone mentioned a planting (or planned planting) near Austin, PA (Potter Co.). Our group is interested in anything like this near us - especially what these folks might be doing. Can you forward any contact info for local work? | Chad | live answered Looking for your contact email . . . please send anything you have - 'jesteschad@yahoo.com' |
| How much confidence can I have in soil explorer estimates? I often find that it lists a single area as having 50% of one type and 30% of another, for example, and I'm not sure what to do with that information. | Tyler Payne | live answered |
| In Tucker Co. WV. Been planting chstnuts from seed and seedlings for 30 years. Used to be chestnuts all over in the woods here and soil is well drained etc. But all have died after 3-15 years because of blight. I have decided to stop trying until true resistant trees are available. When will that be? | john c, GLIFWC | live answered |
| obviously these biophysical parameters are critical for chestnut planting. particularly with respect to potentially being able to plant the OxO tree in the coming years, how might we integrate social criteria with the biophysical to reflect the ways in which restoration is also a socio-cultural process? | Katie Barnhill-Dilling | live answered |



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| What about planting where you have dead for 10 years 30-ft chestnut, no sprouts? | Becky Hrdy CT | live answered |
| what about underground fencing for voles etc | " | live answered Hardware cloth? |
| regarding my earlier question about maintenance, we do have multi- year contracts which will help with establishment. After that, just mowing lawn areas; not much more. | John HARRINGTON | live answered |
| is this presentation deck available online somewhere? | Mike Foster | live answered It will be put up on the chestnut chat site - https://acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/ |
| Make sure that vermiculite is asbestos free. "Pure vermiculite does not contain asbestos and is non-toxic." from looking up vermiculite online. | Marty Jessel | live answered |
| Does the Am. Chestnut Foundation have any contacts with the Dixon Springs Agriculture Center or University of Illinois? https://extension.illinois.edu/dsac | Otis Blanchard | live answered I'll try to develop a local contact for AmChest and out acreage. |
| I have many native chestnuts on my property. At best the native trees grow to 4" in diameter before dying, but most stumps just put out new shoots which die after a few years. How far away from these should I site the new plantings? | Rick Dagenais | live answered |
| roofing nails will hold aluminum tags for decades. the large head moves out with the bark | Tim | live answered |



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| Can you discuss newspapers for mulch? | Bernie Coyle | live answered |
| This is for Sarah. I found the Cornell Soil testing site. aYou answered the fall planting question I had. Great review of using the Soil Survey. I used to work for USDA Soil Conservation Service when we used manuals, no internet!! | Pauline Burnes | live answered |
| suggestions for fertilizer application in the fall? how far from stem, how much for a 1 yr seedling? | dkroes | live answered |
| Any specific recommendations for vole control, particularly with orchards planted in fabric? | John French | live answered |
| Any suggested OHIO source for trees? I'm approved for an orchard grant and will be filling about two acres in the next year. This is in north central Ohio. | bob | live answered |
| Do Chestnuts prefer a particular geographically oriented slope on a ridge? | Stirfryd | live answered |
| can you talk more about the transgenic approach and potential for success. Tracked development of that for a while but lost track. | john c, GLIFWC | live answered |
| Any resources in WI? | Anonymous Attendee | live answered |
| My area of interest is showing Bennington Silt Loam and Condit or Cardington Silt loam. Is this good? | bob | live answered |
| How deep do chestnut tree roots go? | ericmassant | live answered |



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| I've found that indoor grown potted seedlings are susceptible to leaf scorch when moving outside and should be "hardened" via gradual outside exposure before planting. Is this typical/expected? | Brad Price | live answered Brad, I prefer to give seedlings shade after transplanting, as setting outside to harden them off just exposes them to chipmunks and such. |
| Is it better to start with smaller or larger trees? I have seen seedlings that stay small for several years and then decide to grow seem to ultimately do better. Do they form a better root system if they stay small several years.? I see a lot of oaks that do that as well. | frank | live answered |
| What weeks are wild trees blooming in Vt/Nh? | Zoom user | live answered |
| advice on bugs that may harm early growth | Joe | live answered |
| Should you wait to fall to plant potted seedlings? | nancy | live answered Perfect. Will plant once the cicadas are gone |
| you mentioned that Chestnut oak sites could be good plantation sites for Chestnuts. But I find Chestnut Oaks grow on rock. And you have stated that Chestnuts can go to 4 ft deep in taproot? Seems to be an inconsistency, no? | " | |
| Does American Chestnut have promise for environmental remediation (phytoremediation) work? Since the tree grows quickly can the tree be used to pull up pollutants from the soil? | dan melamed | live answered |
| If Chinese chestnuts grow well in a site is that a good indicator that American chestnuts will do well? | Jay | live answered |



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| Companion planting- which forest species should you avoid planting near? | Zoom user | live answered |
| wouldn't chemical poisoning of voles also affect the fox or coyotes that might keep the voles under control? Avoid the poisons or the hawks and fox will also be poisoned. | Robert Dustin | live answered |
| Water table is 6 to 12 inches even though this is on a hill top. Any advice if I should continue with orchard plans? | bob | live answered |
| Comment This is one tough tree. It can compete with grass bramble etc. I have had trees that looked dead only to resprout and start to grow. I sometimes think genetic variability is as important as site. | frank | live answered |
| Is anyone growing American Chestnuts Bonsai? In England, there is one grower of European Chestnut Bonsai. | Michael Ronayne | live answered Trimming any chestnut tree opens up wounds for the blight. |
| Quick update on the status of pilots & spotters searching for new chestnuts in bloom this season? | Steve Johnstonbaugh | live answered |
| The Bonsai approach is not successful if the tree tap root is not removed before setting the tree in the bonsai pot. Cutting the tap root that is well established can cause a wound to form and an opening for disease. If you cut a root use sulfur powder dust to coat the wound! | john-paulmartin | |
| do you recommend a specific fertilizer for chestnuts? | Robert Dustin | live answered |
| Thanks | Marty Jessel | live answered |



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