

Planting and Growing Chestnut Trees

> Tom Saielli MAR Science Coordinator

- 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

Direct seed



Planting a seed



Planting a seed



Planting a seed



- 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

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



- 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!