



**CHESTNUT CHAT – CHAT ROOM**  
**CHAT # 27: PARTICIPATORY CHESTNUT BREEDING**  
**DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021**

ORIGINATOR	QUESTION / COMMENT
Marty:	what does SST ESR I think was on on of your slides. sorry if I missed the spelling.
Sara Fern Fitzsimmons:	SSR: Simple Short Tandem
Sara Fern Fitzsimmons:	*SSR: R = Repeat
Mark von Holstein:	Any thoughts about potential of Darling 58?
CHAPMLD:	We have pecans down South. Most of our potential chestnut growers are wildlife property managers.
Michael Gold:	We also don't experience Spring freezes, only once in 23 years.
Michael Gold:	In addition, we have not experienced winter kill at HARC due to super cold winter temperatures.
Tyler Payne:	Thanks, that's interesting. I was wondering if it was a soil thing. My sense is that area overlaps with black walnut growing.
CHAPMLD:	Yes!
Tyler Payne:	I was wondering that also.
Michael Gold:	Yes, our River Hill loess soils are well suited to black walnut nut culture
Michael Gold:	Keep in mind that our focus is on black walnuts for nuts and not timber. Black walnut timber trees really do grow well in well drained riparian areas.
Thomas Levesque:	I have about 50 American Chestnut seedlings in pots in Maine and wondering if anyone nearby want some
Thomas Levesque:	Is there a leaf sample kit available to the public that shows the percentage of American/ Chinese genetics within the tree, as I have several which are crosses.
Michael Gold:	At HARC, I have seen Dunstan's sending out tertiary flowers during nut harvest in October
David Hunter:	where you found the chestnuts don't really like fertile moist soils. hours are doing best on dry rocky high ground. dunstons and Chinese seem to thrive on more fertile moist soils
Michael Gold:	again, at HARC, black walnuts growing side by side with pine, killed the pines over about 15 years due to allelopathy.
Anthony Chechile:	West Virginia valley bottom I have , it's wet an have a huge walnut next to a creek , nothing growing near it
Anthony Chechile:	After you make a good cross can't you back cross it to the parent tree to stabilize the cross , instead of making grafted trees ?
Bruce:	Pawpaws and persimmons are the only fruit trees I've had survive in close proximity to black walnuts in Maryland.
Mike Aucott:	I've kept out deer successfully for years with 6-foot 2x4" welded wire, never had deer jump this fence. Clearly they can jump higher, but they don't in my experience.
Mike Aucott:	No, in NJ also! 30 years of vegetable garden with no deer incursions with 6-foot welded wire. (We have 100 deer per square mile here.)



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Michael Gold:	Also, if you shake the tree, the nuts still stuck tightly in the burs will be more difficult to harvest (have to kick open each bur).
Anthony Chechile:	Drop temp
Anthony Chechile:	With more chestnut orchards most times there is no chestnuts to find during Christmas, we need later droppers
Tyler Payne:	We've had a relatively mild and rainy summer here in Massachusetts as well. So far.
Tyler Payne:	Does excess water accelerate the growth of blight?
John Caruso:	Great answer on water. The seedlings I thought did do well. I had seed/nuts and I though I set them up too wet. Most nuts did not make it.
Hill:	According to Bill MacDonald, the correct response from a plant pathologist is, "...for no apparent reason."
Mark Ambrose:	It's been suggested that the presence of Chinese chestnut could be an issue for American restoration just because right now there are more Chinese on the landscape and producing pollen than there are American
Thomas Levesque:	Have any researchers tried cutting some areas the bark off near or on blighted areas of American chestnuts and packing these areas with soil and then wrapping it something like bithithane to see if soil bacteria might stave of the blight mycelium.
Kendra Collins:	See article on mudpacking in our magazine - pg 3: <a href="https://acf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/FINAL_Chestnut_Fall2019.pdf">https://acf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/FINAL_Chestnut_Fall2019.pdf</a>
Anthony Chechile:	Did someone collect and test those large 3 trees in idaho
Lisa Thomson:	Thanks to Rob and Greg for another amazing CC! We appreciate all the participants and their questions. Alas, I have another call to jump on at 1:00 so am saying goodbye until next time! Lisa
Doug Gillis:	Not for discussion now, though the question about wood quality of various chestnut species might be answered in the next Chestnut Chat.
Tyler Payne:	thanks all
Marty:	thanks