



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

CHESTNUT CHAT SERIES: Q & A
CHAT # 39: Chestnut Pollen Collection, Processing & Storage
DATE : Friday, May 19, 2023

| Question | Asker | Answer |
|---|--------------------|--|
| What doesn't kill us makes us stronger? | Anonymous Attendee | live answered |
| thank you Lisa | Russel Boyer | live answered |
| I am 10 | Russel Boyer | Thanks Russell! |
| Is the recording for Dentata chat available? | dave demarest | Not yet but should be posted soon: https://acf.org/chestnut-chat-archives/ |
| Isn't it too early to see catkins. I never see until June. Unrelated comment. a few years ago we had late frost and lots of damage to emerging chestnut leaves. Interestingly at least to me the tree abandoned the lower branches and put energy into growing telling. Not sure cause and effect or coincidence | Frank Skalak | Hey Frank - good to "see" you on here! Depends on where you are to see catkins. They are definitely out farther south, like in GA, AL, TN, and maybe even started to produce pollen. I just got back from central VA where the catkins are almost fully extended. Here in central PA, they are just now starting to emerge. |
| Can Darling 58's be pollinated by Chinese Chestnut trees, and vice versa? | Lucas Clemente | Hi Lucas - Yes, D58s can be pollinated by Chinese chestnuts and vice-versa. |
| Is there a special wavelength or combinatiopn of wavelengths that maximizes the growth rate? | Anthony Wickham | It looks like this study may have an answer to your question. They didn't use chestnut, but tested several other tree and herbaceous plant species. https://www.mdpi.com/2223-7747/9/10/1273 |
| Can catkins be removed from the branch and stored as a complete flower? | Phillip Bobrowski | live answered |



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| Why not just snip the catin to capture all the pollen? | Sim Hitzel | live answered |
| Many insects feed on pollen to support a generalist diet - some that you wouldn't imagine, like certain lady beetles. Does anyone know or have theories about which insects are particularly reliant on chestnut pollen? | Margaret Allen | live answered |
| Do you have a problem with mealy bugs? | Russel Boyer | live answered |
| Does it help to rub the slide to increase the static electricity and capture more pollen? | Fred Behringer | live answered |
| why not just vacuum pollen into a cyclone dust collector? | Tim Eck | live answered |
| Has 58 been approved? | Jeff Mitchell | live answered |
| In my experience pollen collections can become infested with fungi/mold - are there molds known to "attack" chestnut specimens? | Margaret Allen | live answered |
| Far red inferred is what you want | Anthony Chechile | live answered |



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| How do you know you are saving the pollen of trees of good form if you are forcing them for pollen at a very young age? Can all chestnut trees be forced? | Frank Skalak | live answered |
| How far can wind-carried pollen travel? Weather patterns in spring often blow up the MS valley from the south... | Margaret Allen | live answered |
| Do leaves come out before any sign of catkins or flowers? | Eric Massant | Yes - leaves will come out first, flowers become apparent a few weeks later - and are more obvious the more they develop/larger they get |
| I had an orchard full of CMS hybrids intending to use it in a backcross breeding strategy but it turned out to have a very continuous quantitative inheritance and was impractical. | Tim Eck | live answered |
| If a volunteer wants to be collecting catkins/pollen from several trees and keep the pollen separate, we'd want to keep all the materials separate, I'd assume. What might be some good ways for people doing this at home? Some big tupperwares for each group of catkins maybe? | Yvonne Federowicz | live answered |



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| I believe you said the female flower is fragrant? Is it fragrant all day and all night or just day or night? I have always heard chestnut are wind pollinated but fragrant flowers usually indicates a plant is insect pollinated. Making a fragrance uses energy and rarely done for no reason. Any comments on this? | Frank Skalak | live answered |
| They look like little cotton balls! | Catherine Martini | live answered |
| if you do get them how do you take care of them | Russel Boyer | Hi Russell - you might find some good info about managing mealy bugs here: https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74174.html |
| how many slides can you currently produce, how many flowers does a slide pollenate? also how great is the risk fo licking up blight fungal spores (my tree collection seems to be blight free for now) | Joseph D Kittle | live answered |
| Why are male chestnut flowers fragrant? The tree must spend a lot of energy to do this? Do insects attracted to male flowers serve any purpose? It seems odd to make fragrant flowers for no reason | Frank Skalak | live answered |
| Percent viability for fresh pollen? | John Emery | live answered |



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| is there any nectar for bees or just pollen? | Tim Eck | I believe so - there is chestnut honey on the market that suggests this is produced |
| Do ya think maybe the lack of these heavy pollen contented trees have somethng to with the numbers of honey bees being way down as well as some other pollinators around the country. | Robert Holland | Certainly seems it could be a contributing factor! |
| Have you done, or are you aware, of any pollen viability studies over time (several days) at at specific temperatures and humitities. Of particular interest is how long pollen stays viable naturally ant "room temperatures" w/o freezing. | Jim English | live answered |
| Thank you Sara Fitzsimmins for continuing to host Chestnut Chats. A special thank you to all of the presenters for collaborating and participating in todays Chestnut Chat. | George Chestnut | You are welcome :) Thanks for coming! |
| Can pollen on slides taken to the field which goes unused but thaws be refrozen or is it discarded ? | Evan Fox | live answered |
| How concerned must one be about getting pollen from the slied on every tube emanating from the female flower ? | Evan Fox | |



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| I've kept pollen in fridge dried for over a month | Anthony Chechile | Yep - thanks Anthony! |