



**CHESTNUT CHAT – Q & A**  
**CHAT #14: CHESTNUT STORAGE AND HARVEST**  
**DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

QUESTION	ASKER NAME	ANSWER(S)
How do you break open the burrs, if they have not opened on their own?	John Devlin	live answered
Are the nuts mature now in PA? Looks like potential for frost tonight.	Frank Skalak	live answered
Did you forget to hit record for Jeanne's chat? I has hoping to listen to it but... ok, so I stop checking every couple days...	Anonymous Attendee	The video from the Metabolomics Chestnut Chat is being edited now. Sorry for the delay! Please keep checking back
If you snip the branch tips to collect burrs, are you cutting off some of next year	Ken Darnell	live answered
next year's flowers?	Ken Darnell	live answered
For the trees to pollinate, do both trees need to reach a mature age? 3-5 years?	Richard Kraemer	live answered
Is there any way of getting a copy of this PowerPoint for reference?	Richard Kraemer	Hi Richard, I will update the chat, Q&A, video and ppt early next week. We do have some materials already posted as well :https://www.acf.org/resources/chestnut-chat-series/



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I just collected about two dozen (green) burs off a tree this morning. The are fairly large. If they are infertile will the burs still open up?	Jack Morris	live answered
is Kestrel similar to HOBO data loggers?	Brad Price	Yes. Lots easier to use but not quite as precise as the HOBO units. HOBO has a lot of additional sensors you can buy. Here's a link to the Kestrel Drop (we use the D2): <a href="https://kestrelmeters.com/products/kestrel-drop?variant=796163257">https://kestrelmeters.com/products/kestrel-drop?variant=796163257</a>
10:1 peat/water ratio - that's by volume? or weight?	Brian McClain	live answered
Anybody know if there's a blue tooth-enabled sensor that will warn you if temp. gets too low or too warm? (My cheap little fridge varies in temp. quite a bit.)	Michael Aucott	Hey Mike -- The Kestrel Drop will do that. You can specify the threshold you want it to send you a message for. It will work through the bluetooth app and send you a message. But I think you need to be near the fridge for that, for the Bluetooth to connect. <a href="https://kestrelmeters.com/products/kestrel-drop?variant=796163257">https://kestrelmeters.com/products/kestrel-drop?variant=796163257</a>
What about weevil treatment?	Bruce Levine	live answered
Should you not put them in the cold sooner than 2-3 month prior to planting?	Jay Brenneman	live answered



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<p>Maybe this is a dumb question. Obviously in nature nuts are not stored under this narrow range of conditions. How do any survive and reproduce in nature if storage conditions need to be in such a narrow range? What does nature know that we don't?</p>	<p>Frank Skalak</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Can you eat the infertile nuts?</p>	<p>Robbie Shaw</p>	<p>no ; The infertile nut has only a outer shell with no meat inside. So the answer is basically no. Correct. There's no actual meat in the shell of an infertile nut, so nothing to eat. It would just be shell. :(</p>
<p>How early is too early to take burs off the tree so they will still ripen in paper bags?</p>	<p>Tom Klak</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Is that towable lift at all maneuverable/positionable by two people, if unhooked from the hitch (to get in position for setup), or is it bascially only movable via a vehicle/tractor?</p>	<p>Brad Price</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Doesn't the apparatus change the weight differential on the crane?</p>	<p>M L Allen</p>	<p>live answered</p>



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Are any of the bison gloves sold by indigenous producers?	M L Allen	live answered
Some nut rot fungi (e.g. Trichoderma) actually grow on the burs. So if you see mold on a bur, do not harvest it. Also, if you see a green bur that has a brown or black streak of dead spines, that is a sign of fungus inside the bur.	Bruce Levine	good advice Bruce!
For 2 trees to pollinate, do both trees need to be mature? 3 to 5 years?	Richard Kraemer	live answered
@Bruce - sorry I'm not a chestnut specialist but I've heard that Trichoderma is a beneficial fungus (??) and good to have on seeds	M L Allen	live answered
On seeds sent out can ACF please mark collection data for our records	Anonymous Attendee	live answered



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<p>When bagging flowers for controlled pollination do you get insects in the pollination bags. And if so have you ever used any insecticide to control insects in the bags. And any recommendations?</p>	<p>Allen Nichols</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Will an isolated tree still produce a large quantity of unfertilized burs? I understand that they do not self pollinated. Isn't there still a huge energy investment to producing large quantities of infertile burs?</p>	<p>Colton</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>If you freeze nuts for later culinary use. do you freeze in brown shell or shell the nuts and then freeze raw nuts? or cook nuts, then freeze?</p>	<p>Robbie Shaw</p>	<p>live answered ; Sara, Sorry, my internet was unstable when you answered this. what did Kendra recommend?</p>
<p>In nature very few nuts of any nut tree oak, walnut, hickory, etc. ever grow into trees in the canopy. By collecting and getting 90% of nuts to sprout are we effectively selecting trees that would never have survived in the wild?</p>	<p>Frank Skalak</p>	<p>I agree, yes! We have the same problem with fish hatcheries!</p>



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Harvesting in SE Pennsylvania?	Colton	Right about now through the end of September. Changes year to year -- just watch the burs.
If you freeze nuts for later culinary use. do you freeze in brown shell or shell the nuts and then freeze raw nuts? or cook nuts, then freeze?	Robbie Shaw	live answered ; Sara, Sorry, my internet was unstable when you answered this. what did Kendra recommend?
In nature very few nuts of any nut tree oak, walnut, hickory, etc. ever grow into trees in the canopy. By collecting and getting 90% of nuts to sprout are we effectively selecting trees that would never have survived in the wild?	Frank Skalak	I agree, yes! We have the same problem with fish hatcheries!
Harvesting in SE Pennsylvania?	Colton	Right about now through the end of September. Changes year to year -- just watch the burs.
This may be off-topic but do you feed your trees?	M L Allen	live answered
Actually, weevils are edible. If you are into that sort of thing.	Bruce Levine	live answered



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Hi. Trichoderma viridae. No. It may suppress other fungi, but I found that it greatly reduced germination on infected trees.	Bruce Levine	live answered
I had good luck storing nuts in fresh hardwood sawdust, but the new band saws cut so fine that it is usually dry by the time I can get it.	Allen Nichols	live answered
Most nuts in forest get buried in leaf litter. How effective is this in controlling temperature of nuts over the winter? Are there other effects of the leaf litter?	Frank Skalak	live answered
Have you ever heard of a "peace offering" for squirrels? I read where (Virginia?) they put a pot of commercial chestnuts at the foot of trees to re-direct the critters away from your burs.	Brian McClain	live answered
You said 2-3 months in cold storage. but does longer hurt?	Jay Brenneman	live answered



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The nuts dont need cold to germinate. But they need to rest for a period of time. But they will rot if they are not cold. So keep them cold until you are ready to plant.	Bruce Levine	live answered
Got it	Jay Brenneman	live answered
YOU'll only get more squirrels	Jay Brenneman	live answered
The comment was made that burrs decay slowly. In nature a tree producing nuts for years would accumulate burrs. Is this a natural deterrent to critters?	Frank Skalak	live answered