



**CHESTNUT CHAT – Q & A**  
**CHAT II: VOLUNTEER WEEK**  
**DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020**

Question	Asker Name	Answer(s)
<p>What is ideal time to fertilize American chestnuts? Is the time the same to get growth and the same time to get flowering? Normally I fertilize in April but so chilly this year I probably won't this year until next week. Any comments on ratio of potassium nitrogen phosphorus.</p> <p>Frank</p>	Frank Skalak	live answered
<p>It is an osmocote.</p>	Frank Skalak	live answered
<p>Any lumber companies growing American Chestnut trees?</p>	mpharr2	We've worked with a couple of lumber companies. One of the primary ones I've worked with is Kane Hardwoods in Northwestern Pennsylvania. We have a couple of plantings on former Mead Westvaco properties in VA and WV. Brian Roth, one of our panelists, may have worked with a company up in Maine -- I'll ask him when he hops on next.
<p>How long does a sapling take to show leaves? This is a group of saplings that just arrived this March?</p> <p>Thanks</p>	Marty jesses	They were bare root? And then planted in the ground? Depends on the weather. If it's still cold, it can take quite some time. If the trees are in warmer areas or a greenhouse, they can come out in 1-2 weeks.
<p>Remind everyone that Cathy severed as Secretary of the Foundation for over a decade.</p>	zyzzff	Great point!!
<p>Is it possible to get a copy of the suitability map for Maine</p>	Isabel Wacker	live answered



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Have you used or do you know of anyone using machine learning techniques to scour aerial photography for Chestnuts (or other trees) in an automatic fashion?	Derek Dohler	live answered
Does that special tree exhibit resistance to the blight?	Chris Scanga	live answered
We are new members of the Maine Chapter and have 25 seedlings - not blight resistant - which we were hoping to plant this spring on our property around Sebago Lake. However, with this crisis, we are holed up in Brooklyn and are unlikely to get to Maine for a few months. We can plant the seedlings temporarily, on the north fork of Long Island. Should we do this - or is there another way to keep these seedlings alive until we can get to Maine. We were hoping to see how these survived before attempting to get seedlings that are blight resistant.	Isabel Wacker	Hi Isabel -- Is there a way for you to put them in containers? If you plan on transplanting this summer, and can water them every week for about a month following transplant this summer, that would be what I would recommend. If you can't get it planted this summer, then, yes, you could heal it in in the ground. Transplanting will be tough, but it would keep them alive. But containerizing will make it easier. I recommend a taller container, at least 16" - 24" tall if possible.
I have seen pictures of trees loaded with burrs and assume they have viable seeds. We have had several seedlings develop naturally from seeds. How much natural regeneration is happening from seeds these days? I keep hearing stories that is rare. Why?  Frank	Frank Skalak	live answered



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I have one of the Savage River volunteers in my backyard right now! (only one survived, but it looks good).	Tom Saielli	live answered
Leila:	Mark Double	live answered
Leila: What experiments are you conducting in OH with AC?	Mark Double	live answered
What is the latest update on root rot resistance? (Phytophthora cinnamomi)	Doug Chapman	live answered
Has there ever been a site suitability map done for Pennsylvania? If so, where can we get it?	Lin	live answered
How feasible might it be to encourage seed production from LSAs by clearing away competing trees?	Louise	live answered
In Western PA, did they every plant Am Chestnuts at the Erie NWR as they were planning to do a few years ago?	Gene	live answered
Ever use “grow bags” to grow seedlings?	mpharr2	live answered
Is the American Chestnut planted on Whitehouse lawn still alive?	mpharr2	live answered
I have a BC3 x F3 planted in an open area. It is approximately 6 feet tall. Thus far it has more of an orchard shape. Is this likely an expression of Chinese traits, or does it have	Mitch Davidson	It's most likely to do with lack of competition. American chestnut is a strong self-pruner, especially in competition. A better trait to look at is apical dominance -- do you see a part of the tree which is working to go straight up, and take over from any other parts of the tree? Another



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<p>more to do with lack of competition due to no surrounding trees?</p>		<p>consideration is age. Younger trees may not yet have taken on a growth form that they'll exhibit later in their life. I recommend keeping an eye on it and seeing how it grows. If you're still concerned, feel free to send pictures and/or a sample for us to analyze. Another way is to send us the code that was sent on that tree. We have analyzed the American percentage in most of our selected trees, and can give you a sense of how much is in a given tree if we've had it analyzed.</p>
<p>You said predation is problem for regeneration. What kind of predators? Is the problem really not enough of the right kind of predator? Does this mean to successfully reintroduce we need to fix the ecosystem first if we expect sustainable growth and regeneration of chestnut? We have wandered through our forest for years and I sometimes wonder if wildlife is more important to the forest than the forest is for wildlife.</p> <p>Frank</p>	<p>Frank Skalak</p>	<p>Frank, while many seeds may be produced, there are many species of birds and animals that eat them for food. In Maine: blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, deer, moose and others. We have very good success with planting chestnut seedlings and protecting them from browse and very limited success with directly planting seeds in the forest.</p>
<p>Dr Roth ever try planting Hops to reduce deer interest?</p>	<p>mpharr2</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Thank you.</p>	<p>Mitch Davidson</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>What about using brewer's mash that contains hops.</p>	<p>Doug Gillis</p>	<p>live answered</p>



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there is a video by a chestnut grower in Erie Co, PA of the chestnuts in the Refuge in Erie.	Jim English	live answered
That is true for almost every tree in the forest. I am not sure the chestnut is different unless growing in orchards only	Frank Skalak	I think you're right, Frank.

