

SOME PESTS AND DISEASES OF CHESTNUT



A BRIEF
INTRODUCTION TO
THE PERILS OF
BEING A GROWER OF
CHESTNUTS.



RULES



- Contact your Regional Science Coordinator
 - Establish and maintain based on sound management practices.
- Make friends with your local extension specialist
- Take pictures
- Do some research and be diligent!

SITE SELECTION!!

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

FERTILIZATION

WATERING

- Varmints
- Fungi
- Insects



BIGGEST RULE



MONITORING IS KEY FOR EARLY DETECTION

MENSURATION AND PROPER MONITORING.

What Can Go Oh, So Wrong



- Poor site selection

- Poor fertility
- Wrong pH
- Poorly Drained

- Poor Management Practices

- No weeding
- Over / under watering
- No protection from varmints

- Varmints

- Deer
- Groundhogs
- Rabbits
- Voles
- Turkeys
- Blue Jays
- Raccoons

- Insects

- chestnut weevil
- ambrosia beetle – shothole borers
- Cicadas
- chestnut gall wasp
- Aphids
- Leaf hoppers
- Japanese beetles / rose chaffers

- Fungi

- Cryphonectria parasitica* – Chestnut blight
- Phytophthora cinnamomi* – Ink disease
- Others

Site selection



Choice of proper site is the first and most important step in deciding the best ways to plant your American chestnuts



- Lots of sunlight to encourage growth and fruiting.
 - ✦ Clearcut areas vs. old fields
 - Clearcuts may = mychorrizal associations
 - BUT clearcuts may have old stumps and roots that make mowing and other maintenance difficult.
 - Fields often easier to work and maintain, with the exception of often having hardier weeds.

Site Selection



- Low pH: 4.5-6.5; aim for 5.5
 - ✦ Get a soil test!
 - ✦ Work with Regional Coordinator / Extension Agent to analyze recommendations
- Look at other species growing on the property
 - ✦ White oak, chestnut oak
 - ✦ Rhododendron, mountain laurel, and blueberries.
- Well-drained and high permeability!!
 - ✦ This is especially important in the South where *Phytophthora* is especially rampant.

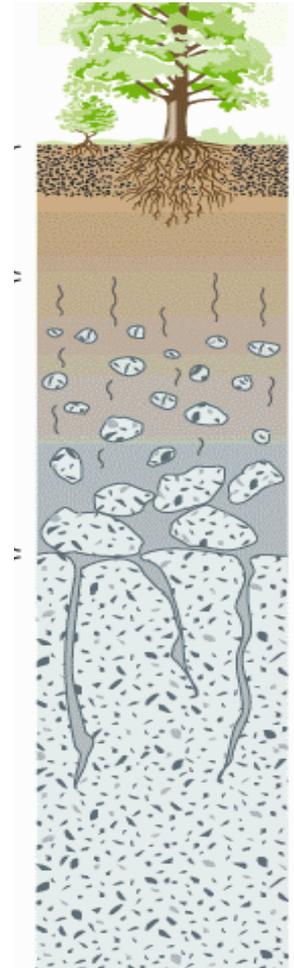




Well-Drained Soils



- Well-drained
 - Sandy, sandy loam | | | Little to No Clay
 - No standing water
- Explore land well
 - Look up on Soil Maps
 - Local library
 - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>
 - Use Web Soil Survey
- Get a soil sample



NRCS Web Soil Survey (WSS)



Web Soil Survey - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

SC State College, PA ? Pe... Pesticide Education Pr... The Official Site for Pe... Women's Hiking Boots ... spint10.txt Land Conservation Gr... Steep and Cheap Southern Sun Biosyste... Park Seed: Top 10 Bes...

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Properties and Qualities Ratings

Open All Close All

- Soil Chemical Properties
- Soil Erosion Factors
- Soil Physical Properties
 - Available Water Capacity
 - Available Water Supply 0 to 025 cm
 - Available Water Supply 0 to 050 cm
 - Available Water Supply 0 to 100 cm
 - Available Water Supply 0 to 150 cm
 - Bulk Density fifteen bar
 - Bulk Density one tenth bar
 - Bulk Density one third bar
 - Linear Extensibility
 - Organic Matter
 - Percent Clay
 - Percent Sand
 - Percent Silt
 - Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity (Ksat)
 - Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity (Ksat), Standard Classes
 - Surface Texture
- Soil Qualities and Features
 - Depth to a Selected Soil Restrictive Layer
 - Depth to Any Soil Restrictive Layer
 - Drainage Class
 - Frost Action

Map - Frost Action

Scale (not to scale)

Legend

Map Legend

- Soil Ratings
 - High
 - Moderate
 - Low
 - None
 - Not rated or not available
- Soil Map Units
- Hydrography
 - Water
 - Roads
 - Rails
 - Interstate Highways
- Cities
- Detailed Counties
- Detailed States
- Oceans

Find: esi Find Next Find Previous Highlight all Match case

Done

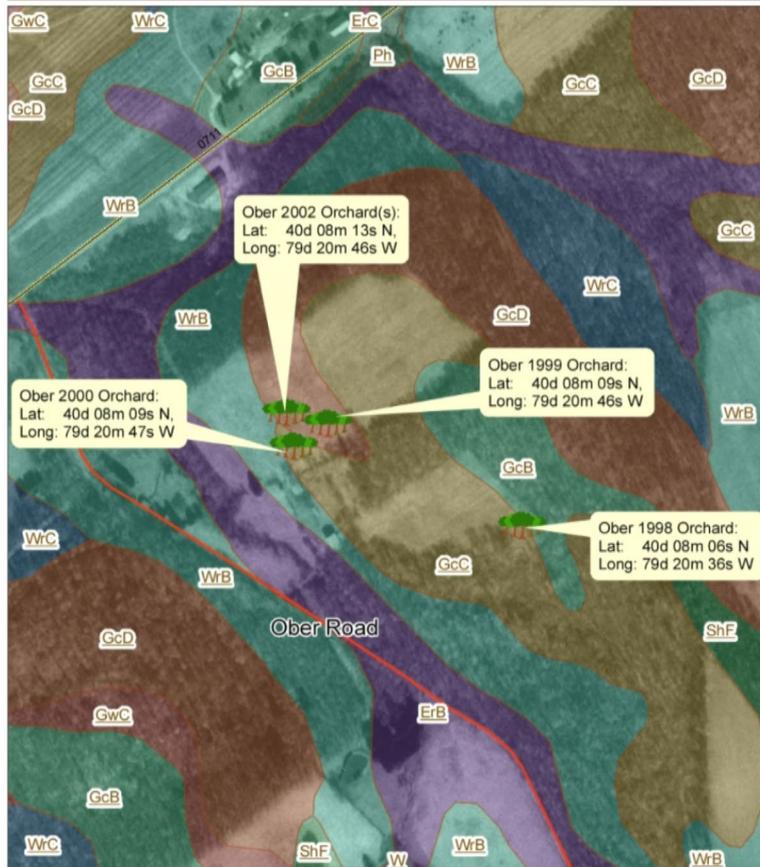
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Do Some Research



- Chestnuts aren't going to grow everywhere.
- Don't just plant the tree and walk away.

Ober Chestnut Orchards, Ober Road, Stahlstown, PA



Legend

- Soil Outlines
- State Roads
- LOCAL_ROADS



Predominant Soil Types of Ober Chestnut Orchards

GcB, GcC, GcD - Gipsin channery silt loam
WrB - Wharton silt loam
ErB - Ernest silt loam

The Gipsin series is typically deep and well-drained. The Wharton and Ernest series are typically deep and moderately well-drained. All soils have moderate permeability and are moderate to strongly acidic in nature. The deeper horizons of the Ernest series are prone to fragipan.

February 10, 2006, sff

Differences in Site and Nutrition



**Healthy
Chinese
chestnut**



**Soil is too shallow
~6" to limestone
bedrock**



**Soil is too shallow
~20" to limestone
bedrock**

Over / underwatering



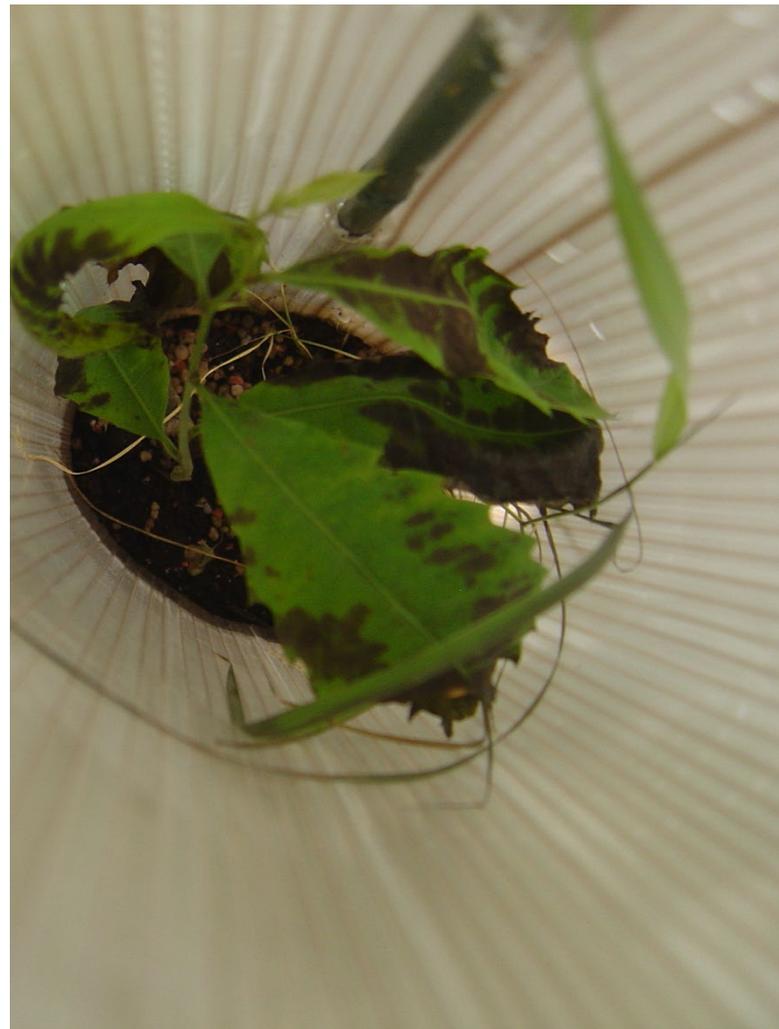
- Either way they look wilted
- Over-watering tends to be more black-brown while under-watering tends to look more light brown.



Fertilizer Burn



- Be careful with fertilizers, especially heavy N-fertilizers or straight ammonia.
- Fertilizer burn will create black edges of leaves and may lead to death of seedling.



Frost Heave



- Certain soils are prone
 - Shrink-swell capacity
 - Typically higher-clay content soils
 - ✦ Should be avoiding anyway
- If can't avoid:
 - Lack of insulation exacerbates problem
 - Leave some ground cover
 - ✦ Establish insulation
 - Hay
 - Some other cover



Field: Frost Damage



- Late-spring frosts can be damaging
 - Newly emerged leaves shrivel and turn black, may even fall off
 - Expanding buds may be injured
 - ✦ Flower buds can be damaged, reducing flowering later in the season
- Frost damage looks terrible
 - Many growers jump to alternative conclusions
 - Keep an eye on the nighttime lows and watch for frost warnings
- Trees should re-leaf, though growth may be set-back for the season



Spencer Brookes – Shieling Forest
Orchard

Field: Winter Injury



- Low winter temps can cause stem injury or death
 - Most common at northern range limits and high elevations
 - May be more of a juvenile issue, research is on-going
- Suggested measures:
 - In cold environments plant chestnut in more protected areas
 - ✦ Canopy cover can help moderate temperatures
 - Choose chestnut sources native to cold-adapted sites
 - ✦ May be better suited for survival



Field: Frost Cracks and Sun Scald



- Frost cracks
 - Most common on thin-barked trees
 - Caused by rapid expansion and contraction of water in wood cells
 - ✦ Usually when night temperatures fall rapidly
- Sun scald
 - Warm sunlight or reflected light “wakes up” dormant cells, which can then be killed by plummeting nighttime temperatures
 - Observed as sunken or dead bark, usually on SW exposure
- Prevention
 - Wrapping trunk
 - Painting bark
 - Shading



**James Solomon,
USDA Forest
Service,
Bugwood.org:
<http://www.ipmimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=3046022>**

Varmints



- Voles
- Groundhogs
- Rabbits

- Deer
- Bear



Voles



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- Girdle base of tree
- Like to overwinter in warm places



Groundhogs / Rabbits



<http://www.hoghaven.com/emerge2.htm>



- Chew off bark
- Rabbits
 - Damage similar to groundhogs/voles

Protect Your Investment!



- Keep vegetation around planting low
 - Less vegetation = better visibility for predators
- Protect using
 - short shelter
 - Flashing
 - something!





Deer



- Fencing
- Repellent
- ***NO*** tall
tree
shelters





- Deer are greater than others
- 10-20 trees: up to 4' in height building cages
 - Narrower diameter
- Highly recommended greater than others



Other options

- Protection from deer should stand about 5-6 feet in height.
- Some mesh type tubes are available.
 - The Massachusetts Chapter recommends use of hardware cloth cages.
 - ✦ Stems and lateral branches may still get nipped
 - ✦ Grow through holes and rub against metal
 - Be certain to check these protectors to be sure they are standing or have not been crushed by wind, rain, hooligans.



More About Deer



- Deer repellents
 - Must be applied to all new growth and after any rain event.
 - ✦ Approximately every 2 weeks
 - Homemade egg sprays
 - ✦ Mix a cocktail of 3 eggs to 1 gallon water in a blender
 - ✦ Strain through a cheese cloth (optional)
 - ✦ Apply with a backpack or handheld sprayer.
 - Commercial repellents
 - ✦ Bitrex, Plantskydd
- Fencing options
 - Baited electric fencing
 - Woven wire (galvanized steel) fencing
 - ✦ For especially large plantings
 - Plastic fencing



Bears



- Biggest problem with tall tree shelters
- Will destroy trees getting to burs

- Not much one can do
- Woven wire fencing
 - Strands of electric fencing along top



Humans



- Four wheelers
- Target practice
- Stealing seedlings (!!)

Insects



Heed all restrictions on labels before using pesticides. Consult your Agricultural Extension Specialist for proper identification of and proper treatment for pests and diseases.

- Chestnut weevils
- Japanese Beetles
- Asiatic Gall Wasps
- Cicadas
- Leaf hoppers
- Aphids
- Tent Caterpillars
- Ambrosia beetles (shothole borers)
- Orange-striped oakworms
- Yellowneck caterpillars



My Nuts Are Wormy



- Chestnut weevil
 - Overwinter in soil
 - ✦ Females feed on nuts
 - ✦ Oviposit eggs into developing bur / nut
 - Some fly in summer; some in late fall



*William M. Ciesla, Forest Health
Management International,
www.forestryimages.org*



*Jerry A. Payne, USDA
Agricultural Research
Service,
www.forestryimages.org*



Chestnut Weevil Control



- Post-harvest
 - Hot water bath
 - 120°F for 20 minutes



- Keep the area underneath your trees debris free.
 - Remove nuts, husks, leaves in timely basis
 - Free-range poultry may help reduce larval populations

Japanese beetles / Rose Chaffers



- Use Sevin
- Hand picking for light infestations and if caught early
- Beetle traps?? Use caution



UGA1150134

*Doug Stone, Mississippi State University,
www.forestryimages.org*



Gall Wasp

Dryocosmos kuriphilus



- Chestnut gall wasp
 - Most growers don't need to worry about this one, yet.



Gall Wasp History / Control



- Introduced to Georgia
- Moved north to Ohio (2003)
- Found in Maryland / Pennsylvania 2006

- There is a biological control.
- Don't destroy galls
 - Put up with it for a couple of years to allow predatory control to take effect.

Shothole Borers / Ambrosia beetles (family *Scolytidae*)



- Diligent monitoring
 - Check once / week – March through growing season
 - look for the telltale pinholes
 - Tiny sawdust column
 - ✦ Present often (not always)
- If you find a pinhole
 - Treat weekly
 - Spray permethrin
 - Spray through that growing season and again in March of the next year.
- Rogue heavily infested stems
 - Burn them.
 - They'll probably resprout



UGA2109096

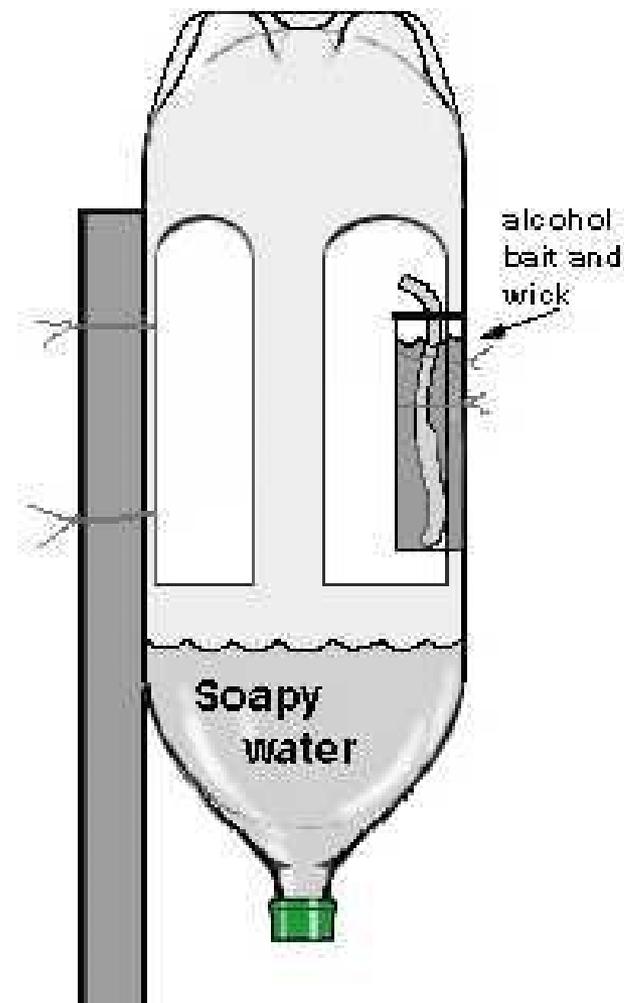
*Laura Lazarus, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources,
www.forestryimages.org*

Control



- Monitor!
 - Alcohol Trap
 - ✦ Alcohol wick in a 2-liter bottle filled with soapy water
- Spray
 - Permethrin-based

Asian Ambrosia Beetle Trap



Aphids and Leafhoppers



- Sucking Insects
- Leaf curl
- Chlorosis



Susan Ellis, , www.insectimages.org



Leaf Hoppers and Aphids



- Typically, damage is cosmetic
- Hits toward end of growing season
 - August / September



Phylloxera castanea



- Related to aphids
 - More severe
- Typically only in orchards, not woodlands
- No mortality, but does stunt growth, especially on young trees.
- Keyed out in MD and NY Chapters to date



Leaf Hoppers and Aphids



- Insecticidal soaps
- Biological control
 - Ladybirds
 - ✦ Available commercially



<http://www.aphids.us>

Periodical Cicadas



- Take orchards three years to recover
 - Large nut losses
 - Don't establish in heavy cicada years
 - Cover small trees (< 3 years)
 - ✦ Blueberry netting can help
 - Grin and bear it w/ larger trees



Cicada damage

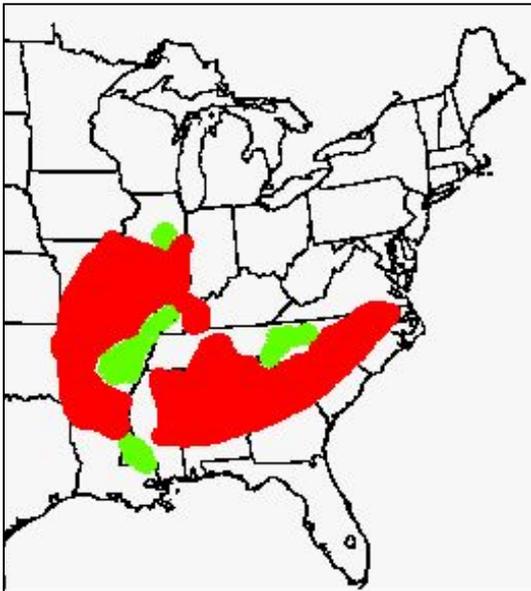


Periodical Cicadas – Brood Maps



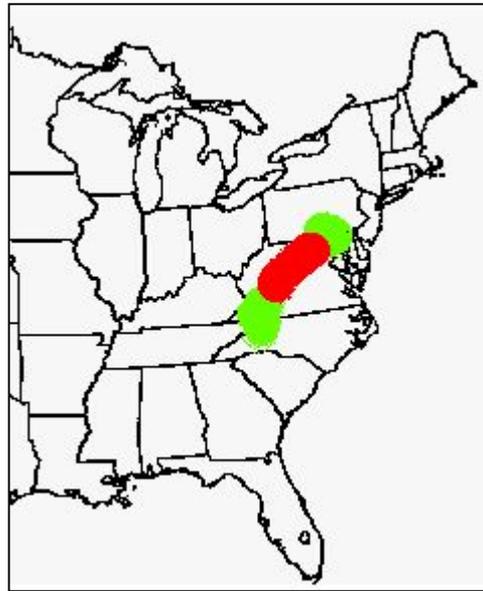
2011

Brood XIX



2012

Brood I



2013

Brood II



Caterpillars



- Yellowneck Caterpillars
- Orange-striped oakworms
- **Army worm?**
- Tent Caterpillars
- Many others

- Keep an eye on
 - Typically do not do long-term harm to trees.
 - Dead limbs?
 - ✦ ID
 - ✦ Control

Allergies!



- Tussuck Moths
 - Out during harvest
- Gypsy moths
 - Out during planting





Heed all restrictions on labels before using pesticides. Consult your Agricultural Extension Specialist for proper identification of and proper treatment for pests and diseases.

- Pythium
- Powdery mildew
- Chestnut blight
- Phytophthora cinnamomi
- Stem cankering
- Anthracnose

Fungi: *Pythium* spp.



- *Pythium* root rot can be a problem for chestnut, especially when potting media is kept very damp
 - Root rot or damage
 - “Damping off” – death of newly-emerged seedlings
- Treatment:
 - Difficult to diagnose and treat
 - Proper sanitation
 - Manage moisture levels

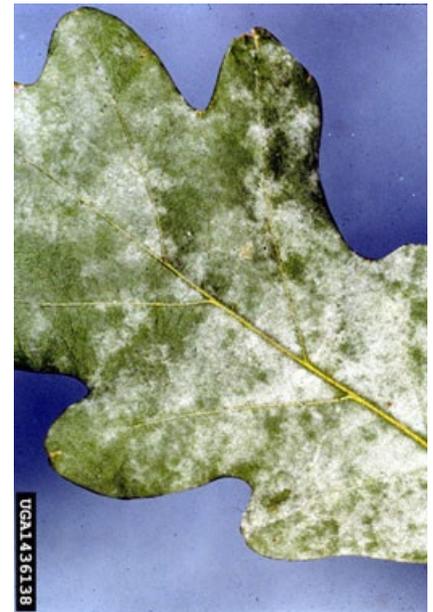


Clemson University - USDA Cooperative
Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org:
<http://www.ipmimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1233227>

Fungi: Powdery Mildew



- Powdery mildew can be found on chestnut, especially in high-moisture environments
 - Caused by several species of fungi
 - Dusty white or gray coating on leaf surface
- Typically not a major concern
- Treatment:
 - Good sanitation – remove fallen leaves
 - Fungicides, if needed
 - ✦ Make sure host plant and intended use are appropriate
 - ✦ Follow all label instructions



Clemson University - USDA
Cooperative Extension Slide
Series, Bugwood.org:

<http://www.ipmimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=14361>

Anthracnose fungi



- Fungal disease
 - Large family,
 - Many anthracnose species affect many different host species
- Tip die-back
- Typically brought on by wet, cool springs
- Not much you can do about it
 - Recognize it || April - May
 - Don't freak out!
 - ✦ The tree will recover.

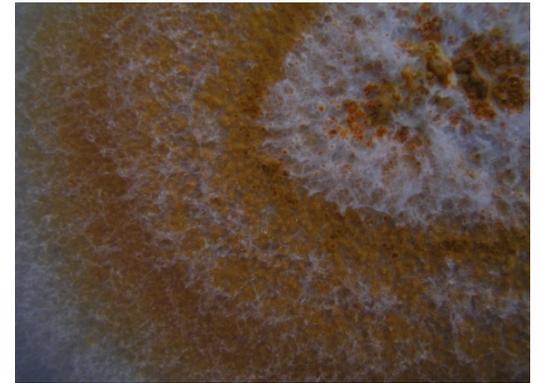


Photo courtesy Paul Sisco, TACF

Chestnut Blight



- Causal agent
 - Chestnut blight fungus
 - ✦ *Cryphonectria parasitica*
 - formerly *Endothia parasitica*



Stroma of *Cryphonectria parasitica*

Photo courtesy Tom Volk, UW-Lacrosse



Chestnut Blight Cankers



- Healing cankers



- Sunken cankers

Mudpacking



Pruning



- Best policy is generally not to prune.
 - Typically no reason to prune
 - Opportunity for blight infection.
- Some say prune in the summer
 - Have seen some good success with pruning in winter.
 - Some say prune in fall when the blight is less active
- If you do prune, be sure to mudpack the wound or seal w/ pruning sealer.



Pruning / Mudpacking / the Blight



- Mudpacking does not keep other cankers from forming
- Other biocontrol methods are available
 - Not generally practical
 - See Chestnut Growers site for more info. . .

Phytophthora infection



- *Phytophthora cinnamomi*
 - ink disease/root rot
 - Relative of Sudden Oak Death (SOD)
 - ✦ *Phytophthora ramorum*
 - Especially a problem in the South
 - ✦ And Europe and Australia
- Strong program in TACF's southern region to breed resistance into advanced backcross material



<http://www.unitus.it/dipartimenti/dpp/progetti/cost/phytopht.htm>

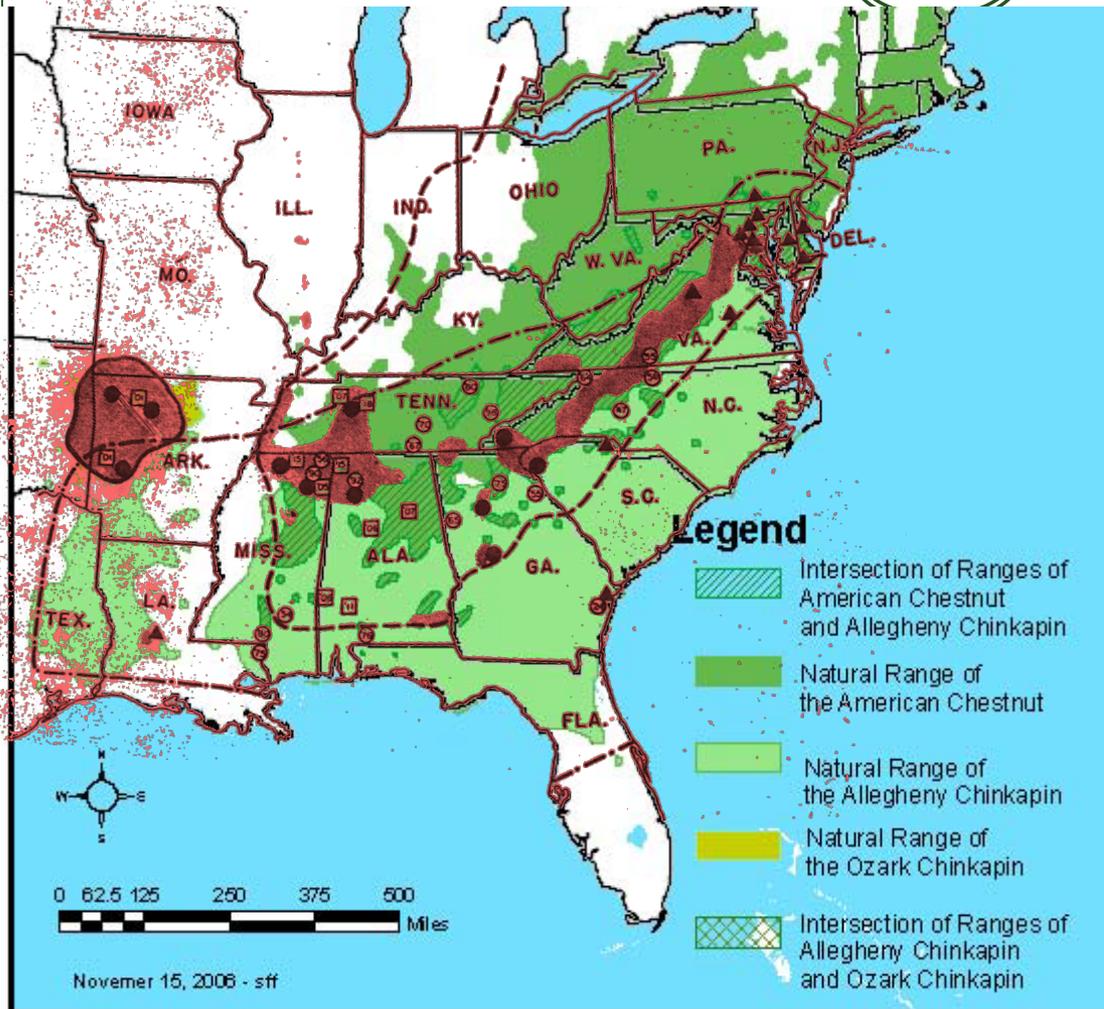
Introduction and Distribution



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Becky Bernard,

<http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/course/pp318/profiles/pc/pc.html>



- Introduced to US about 200 years ago
- Wiped out chestnut from many low-lying areas in the South
- Most likely eradicated chestnut from piedmont of South prior to introduction of chestnut blight fungus.

Identification of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infection



- Need to cut dying or *freshly* dead tree
- Examine tissue near base of tree for distinctive black streaking just under bark
- Send sample in for testing

Photo courtesy Paul Sisco, TACF

Sending Samples for *Phytophthora* Testing



- The way to test is to dig up a dying (not dead) seedling with roots and some soil.
- Put the roots and soil in a plastic bag to keep them moist and send to
 - [Dr. Steve Jeffers at Clemson University](#)
- The top of the seedling can be cut off.
- Be sure to put information about location of the seedling and contact number.
- Don't more than two seedlings at a time.



Preventative measures



- The best way to avoid Phytophthora infection is just that – avoid it!
- Phytophthora is generally ubiquitous, but its survival is inhibited by dry areas and low temperatures.
- **Rule #1: DON'T plant in SWALES**
 - The ultimate defense is to plant in sandy, well-drained soils, avoid low-lying and flat land (unless the soil is sandy), and also, avoid old fields in the Piedmont.
 - In cases where the soils are ordinarily well-drained but are heavy in texture, unusually wet conditions can slow the drainage to create a *Phytophthora* problem.
- If diagnosed early, fungicide drench is possible
 - Ridomil or Subdue
 - Expensive! Labor-intensive!
- **Rule #2: DO NOT PLANT in areas IDENTIFIED to HAVE PHYTOPHTHORA**
 - Seed grass there to contain spread of fungus
 - Do not plant in death holes or downhill from death area



Photo courtesy Paul Sisco, TACF



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Other Resources



There are other resources available that may help one in establishing an orchard and for further growing:

- TACF employees / Regional Coordinators
- Local extension agents

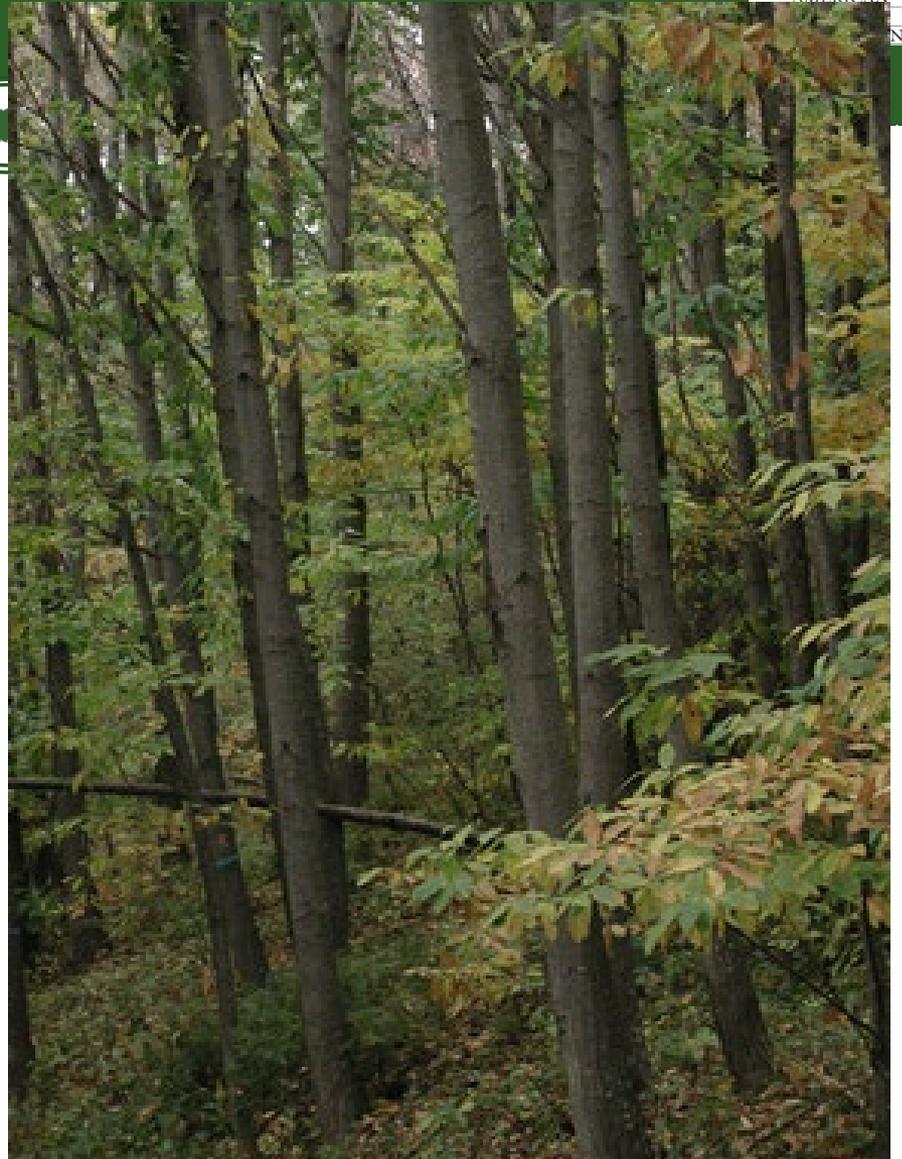
- The TACF handbook to Growing American Chestnuts
- Other TACF growers

- <http://sfr.psu.edu/public/chestnut>

- The Northern Nut Growers Association
 - ✦ Many knowledgeable growers, particularly for growing chestnuts for nut production
 - ✦ <http://www.nutgrowing.org>



g r o w i n g
a m e r i c a n
c h e s t n u t s



Any Questions?





- Powdery Mildew
- Spider mites



Cicadas in Pennsylvania



- Upcoming 2016, 2019
- Past 2004, One of the biggest = 2008, Brood X