



# American Chestnuts and Arboreta

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*The American Chestnut Foundation guide to planting American chestnuts at your arboretum*



## Introduction

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Welcome to The American Chestnut Foundation's (TACF) guide to planting American chestnut in arboreta. TACF, in collaboration with The Morton Arboretum and ArbNet, has developed several packages of trees showcasing the American chestnut, its past and current restoration efforts.

The goal of TACF is to restore the American chestnut tree to our eastern woodlands to benefit our environment, our wildlife, and our society. More information on the history, mission and TACF breeding program can be found in the Appendix of this document.

ArbNet facilitates the exchange of information and the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources to help arboreta achieve their goals. Through ArbNet, arboreta from around the globe can work collaboratively as part of a broad network with the common goal of encouraging the planting and conservation of trees. ArbNet is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum.

This document and the packages it offers are a product of TACF's collaboration with The Morton Arboretum and ArbNet in an effort to further the above missions. We see the great potential to partner with the arboretum and garden network to help the effort of restoring chestnut trees back into the landscape while also provoking greater public awareness.

A planting of chestnut trees – whether pure American, Chinese or TACF's Restoration Chestnut 1.0 trees – will be the primary communication of our efforts to the public. Because of this, it is important to present the trees properly and give the trees every chance at growing into healthy, mature plants.

Along with developing trees, TACF has developed materials (signage, pamphlets, planting guides, educational materials, etc.) to assist your arboreta in a way that is beneficial to both organizations.

## Are Chestnuts Right for Your Site?

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American chestnut prefers a well-drained, somewhat acidic site. You can have a soil test done with your local university, extension agent, or environmental laboratory. Since blueberries and azaleas grow well in similar soil conditions, ask for recommendations based on growing those more familiar plants.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.acf.org/FAQ.php>

## What you can expect from TACF and ArbNet

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TACF will support arboreta planting chestnuts to greatest extent possible. Failed seedlings will be replaced.

TACF state chapters often have many local resources at the university, state, and volunteer level. A full list of state chapters is available here: <http://www.acf.org/Chapters.php>

TACF has regional science coordinators that support state chapters and their initiatives. A list of those resources can be found here: <http://www.acf.org/Chapters.php#science>

Research farm staff are available on a limited basis and contact information can be found here: <http://www.acf.org/meadowview.php>

There is a TACF growers listserv maintained by The Pennsylvania State University. This is an open forum where questions can be freely asked and answered by an active community of chestnut growers in the US. Membership is free and it is available here: <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/chestnut/mailling-lists/tacf-growers>



ArbNet is available to help facilitate arboreta to engage with TACF on this planting program. Contact the ArbNet Coordinator at [arbnet@mortonarb.org](mailto:arbnet@mortonarb.org) or 630 -310-7013.



## Available plant species and short descriptions

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Current species are available as seeds or 1 year old seedlings (available spring of 2014). Some TACF state chapters have resources to grow seeds into seedlings for arboreta.

- A. **TACF's Restoration Chestnut 1.0:** 6<sup>th</sup> generation hybrid of *Castanea dentata* and *Castanea mollissima*, with approximately 94% American genes. Most offspring may have moderate to good blight resistance. **Planting Restoration Chestnut 1.0 material requires a signed germplasm agreement with TACF** (see Appendix).
- B. **Pure American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*):** This is the chestnut tree native to the eastern United States. Historically up to 100' tall, 4' in diameter at maturity although blight will probably kill the tree well before then.
- C. **Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*):** Native to China, typically more "shrubby" in appearance and has strong blight resistance.

## Available educational materials

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TACF's American Chestnut Learning Box. Prepackaged lesson plans, plant samples, educational DVD, and pamphlets. \$300 (shipping included). Description here:  
<http://www.acf.org/learningbox.php>

## Packages

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All packages include a one year organizational membership to TACF. A germplasm agreement is required for any arboretum planting Restoration Chestnut 1.0 trees (see Appendix).

For ongoing research purposes, TACF has a survey that we request be filled out at 1, 3, 5 and 10 year intervals.

Examples of signs can be found here: <http://www.acf.org/orchardsigns.php>

- A. Four (4) each of Restoration Chestnut 1.0, pure American chestnut and Chinese chestnut, educational pamphlets + 1 panel sign (posts not included). *Sign panel is approximately 34"H x 22"W.* **\$280**
- B. Four (4) each of Restoration Chestnut 1.0, American chestnut, Chinese chestnut, educational pamphlets + 3 panel sign (posts not included). *Sign panels are approximately 34" H x 22" W.* **\$680**

## Mail, Email or Fax the Application (page 4) to:

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The American Chestnut Foundation  
Attn: Arboreta Planting  
50 North Merrimon Avenue, Suite 115  
Asheville, NC 28804  
Fax: (828) 253-5373  
[chestnut@acf.org](mailto:chestnut@acf.org)



## Appendix

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TACF Mission and History:

[http://www.acf.org/mission\\_history.php](http://www.acf.org/mission_history.php)

TACF Backcross Breeding Method:

[http://www.acf.org/r\\_r.php](http://www.acf.org/r_r.php)

ArbNet:

<http://arbnet.org/>

QR Code for [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org):



Link to Map of Arboreta with chestnut plantings:

<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zT-JurGhsiFw.khU5fmSxrmJQ>

TACF Germplasm Agreement:

<http://www.acf.org/pdfs/board/GPA%20General%2001-15-2015.pdf>

**TACF cannot ship material to CA, OR and WA state.**

*Phytophthora* is a serious, wide-spread and hard to control fungus that affects American chestnut and many other woody plants, especially in southern climates. Information on *Phytophthora* is available here:

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/notes/oldnotes/odin13/od13.htm>

[http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental/2008\\_talks/Jeffers-Chestnut\\_Screening.pdf](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental/2008_talks/Jeffers-Chestnut_Screening.pdf)

# Application/Order Form (return to TACF)

Name of Arboretum:	
Contact Name:	
Address of Arboretum:	
Contact Phone:	
Contact Email:	
Website:	
Soil pH:	
Is your state subject to shipping restrictions/quarantine:	
<b>TACF cannot ship to CA, OR and WA state</b>	
<i>Phytophthora</i> risk (aka Ink Disease or root rot, please see appendix for more information):	
Please describe a short description of the soil (soil type) where the chestnuts would be planted:	
Package:	Number of Brochures (100/bundle):
Planned date of chestnut planting:	
Are you interested in attending a webinar for site preparation, planting or growing training?	
Custom signage text (limit to 25 words for single panel, or 100 words for three panel signs):	



## For Internal Use Only

Regional Science Coordinator:
Assigned TACF Representative:
Application approved by:
Planting Instructions/care and feeding:
Site visit requested:
Date of site visit:
Germ Plasm Agreement Signed:
Notes: