



American Chestnuts and Arboreta

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



Introduction

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 goals. 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 potentially blight-resistant American chestnuts – 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 of growing into healthy, mature plants.

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

Are Chestnuts Right for Your Site?

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

TACF will support arboreta planting chestnuts to greatest extent possible. Failed seedlings will be replaced at TACF's discretion. We encourage cooperators to work with TACF to identify the cause of failure.

TACF has many resources available to assist arboreta in establishing and promoting their chestnut planting. Please contact TACF at any time with questions or requests for information: chestnut@acf.org or 828-281-0047.

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



Available plant species and short descriptions

Current species are available as seeds or 1 year old seedlings

- A. **Potentially Blight-Resistant American chestnuts:** 6th generation hybrid of *Castanea dentata* and *Castanea mollissima*, On average, these trees exhibit predominately American chestnut phenotypes. Offspring may have moderate to good blight resistance. **These trees require a signed Germplasm Agreement (GPA) with TACF** (see Appendix). Please note that blight-resistance cannot not be guaranteed in these materials. They are still being tested. These trees may still eventually succumb to the blight.
- B. **Pure American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*):** These seeds are from wild-type, “pure” American chestnuts native to the eastern United States.
- C. **Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*):** Native to China, These trees are typically more “shrubby” in appearance and have a strong blight resistance.

Available educational materials

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

All packages include a one year organizational membership to TACF. A GPA is required for any arboretum planting potentially blight-resistant American chestnut 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>

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

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



Appendix

TACF Mission and History:

http://www.acf.org/mission_history.php

TACF Backcross Breeding Method:

http://www.acf.org/r_r.php

ArbNet:

<http://arbnet.org/>

QR Code for 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>

To reduce spread of pests and diseases outside of the American chestnut's natural range, TACF does not distribute chestnut materials west of the Mississippi River.

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:	
TACF does not ship west of the Mississippi	
<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: