

drawing by
Dr. Frederick Paillet

Connecticut Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

Promoting the preservation and restoration of the American chestnut species
in the State of Connecticut through the development and propagation
of chestnut trees resistant to the chestnut blight

November 13, 2009

Trustees

Bill Adamsen
President
Wilton

John Anderson
Vice President
Norfolk

Dr. Philip Arnold
Secretary
Woodbridge

Jim W. Gage
Treasurer
Ellington

Connecticut Chapter TACF Board Meeting

Date: Saturday November 14th.

Time: 10am to no later than 2pm

Lunch: Sandwiches provided by TACF

Location: Woodbridge Community Center (same location as usual)

Address: Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge

Telephone Connection: Call my cell if you need directions 917.796.4284

Draft Agenda

1. Call to order/ Roll Call
2. Review and approve Draft Minutes from March 14, 2009
3. Reports (breaks as appropriate including lunch) *[total time 80 minutes]*
 1. President's Report (Adamsen) *[5 minutes]*
 2. Treasurer's Reports (Gage) *[15 minutes]*
 3. Tree Breeding Report (Kida) *[5 minutes]*
 4. Orchard Management Report (Harris) *[10 minutes]*
 5. Annual Meeting Planning (Smith) *[10 minutes]*
 6. Nominating Committee Report/Discussion (Allcock) *[15 minutes]*
 7. Communications (Adamsen) *[5 minutes]*
 8. Bylaws (Anderson/Gregg) *[10 minutes]*
 9. Treasurer's Recap - 2010 Budget (Gage) *[5 minutes]*
4. New (other) Business (open discussion) *[total time 45+ minutes]*
 1. Seed Orchard (Adamsen) *[30 minutes]*
 2. CT-TACF Advisory Committee (Adamsen/Allcock) *[15 minutes]*
 3. Other *[? minutes]*
5. Review Action Items (Secretary) *[10 minutes]*
6. Meeting Closed

Directors

Dr. Jennifer Allcock
Guilford

Dr. David Bingham
Salem

Dr. Robert Gregg
Woodbridge

Jane Harris
Middletown

Gayle Kida
Suffield

Will Kies
Greenwich

Michael McGee
Tolland

Bill Moorhead
Litchfield

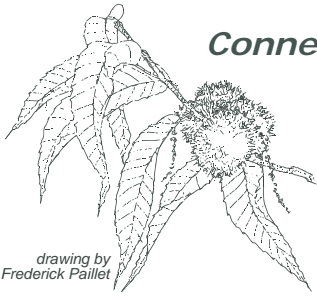
Dr. Jack Ostroff
Old Lyme

Ellery Sinclair
Falls Village

Garrett Smith
Avon

150 Drum Hill Road ♦ Wilton ♦ Connecticut ♦ 06897
203.210.7296 ♦ 917.796.4284 ♦ bill.adamsen@gmail.com ♦ <http://ctacf.org>

The CT Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation (eid: 06-1360461) is classified as
a Public Charity 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code



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Middletown Orchard Report

November 14, 2009

Organized in the spring of 2009, the Middletown Orchard is still in its test planting phase. Sited on a three-acre parcel adjacent to the Higby Reservoir, managed by the City of Middletown Water and Sewer Department, the orchard currently consists of just 20 American chestnut plantings.

With seeds shipped by Kendra and assistance from the Urban Forestry Commission and the Alternative Incarceration Center, the Middletown Garden Club established twenty plantings on the west boundary of the site, with the row running north/south. The planting of the seeds was done on May 23, with help and guidance from Jennifer Allcock. The following months were among the wettest on record in Connecticut. No watering was needed after the initial planting until the August dry spell.

Germination of the seedlings was 100%. After the initial germination, however, 7 of the seedlings were either pulled out completely by deer, or so heavily browsed that they did not survive. The remaining 13 seedlings are now protected, and are approximately 15 to 18 inches tall.

Weed control was initially established by mowing and spraying with RoundUp. The seeds were planted within protective tubes and surrounded by a layer of landscape cloth; weeds have not been a major problem so far. To date, no fertilizer has been applied; since this was a test site, it was interesting to observe how the trees performed without any assistance.

Fencing materials have been shipped to the site, and the Alternative Incarceration Center's crew is planning to install it within the next week. Jennifer Allcock provided excellent information and consultation as to products and design.

Many thanks to Gayle, Kendra and Jennifer for their help along the way!

Jane Harris
Orchard Manager

Litchfield Hills Audubon Society (LHAS) purchased the 31 acres that is now the Wigwam Brook Wildlife Sanctuary (WBWS) in July 2008 for \$300K, totally funded with grants, donations and a bequest. WBWS, along Route 254 in Litchfield, is the watershed for the Wigwam Brook that provides drinking water to the City of Waterbury. It has a very diverse habitat including wetlands, beaver ponds, hardwoods, old fields, a 6-acre Christmas tree farm and Wigwam Brook which runs the length of the property.

In January, after a presentation by Bill Adamsen, the LHAS Board of Directors approved entering into a partnership with CT-TACF to develop a chestnut orchard.

On Memorial Day weekend, under the guidance of Bill Adamsen, 30 seednuts, supplied by Kendra Gurney, were planted in 3 test plots, and 5 weeks later, 26 of them had germinated with many peeking out of their blue tubes. Most reached well over 12 inches, but the deer kept them in check. The test was successful.

LHAS received an NRCS/WHIP grant to help manage the physical aspects of WBWS: invasive plant control, grasslands restoration, mowing, native shrub establishment, thinning conifers and erecting fences for protection of the chestnut plantings.

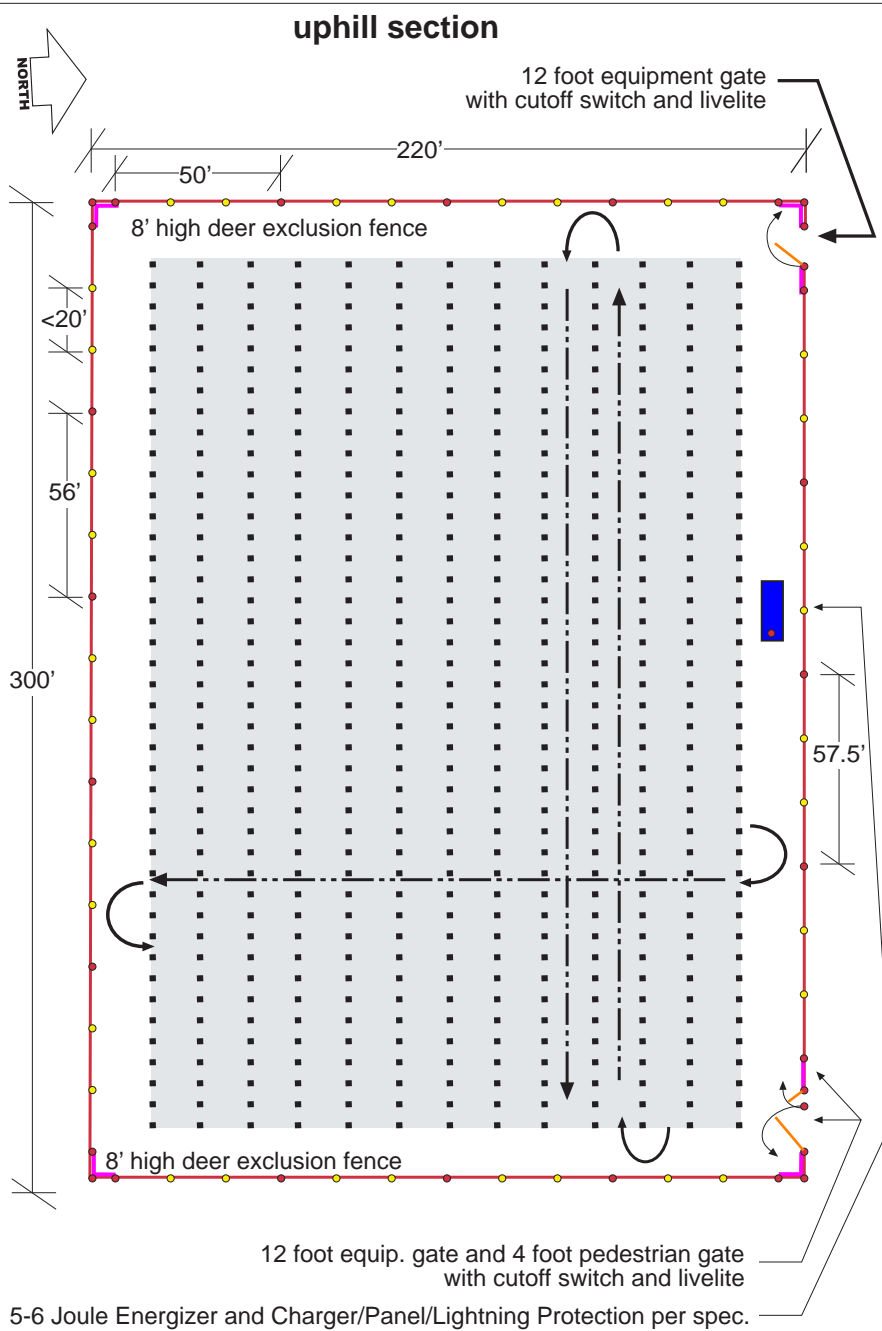
In September, the 1.5 acre area to be planted was cleared of conifers, brush and weeds, and most of the rocks were removed, and in October, an 8-car parking lot was finished.

We expect to complete the fencing in December and start the plantings in the spring.

LHAS has received some media coverage, mostly in connection with the preservation of this beautiful property for wildlife and passive recreation. You have see it to believe it; oh, how lucky we are!!!

Thanks, John Baker

There was a nice overview article on the TACF Web-Site describing the site <http://ctacf.org/index.cfm/2009/6/1/Wigwam-Brook-Test-Orchard>



Back-cross Research Orchard

12' Equipment Gate - at top of orchard for equipment access. Braced both sides. Located on north side of fence. 8 foot high Deer type

12' Equipment Gate - at base of orchard for equipment access. Expect to be located on north side. 8 foot Deer type.

4' Pedestrian Gate at orchard base for visitor access. Expect to be located on north side. 8 foot deer type

Gates in beaver exclusion area must be designed to exclude beaver

All gates equipped with G610 cutoff and livelite. (One required for adjacent gates)

Min 20' "tractor swing room" between fence and trees on interior perimeter

Min 10' exterior perimeter between fence and field growth to facilitate mowing

13 rows of trees 15' apart 38 trees in each row planted at 7' spacing with total capacity 494 trees

Row alignment in both axis to allow mowing both directions

Orchard fence 220 feet wide by 300 feet long. Fence length total of 1040 feet.

Total enclosed area 60,000 approximately 1.6 acres

Based on gate locations, and minimum recommended span for large posts in specifications (see specifications - page 2) there should be approximately 30 large posts (corners, braces, runs, energizer)

There would be a total of 11 horizontal braces

Insulators on all post connections

Spring and ratchet tension on each run

Legend

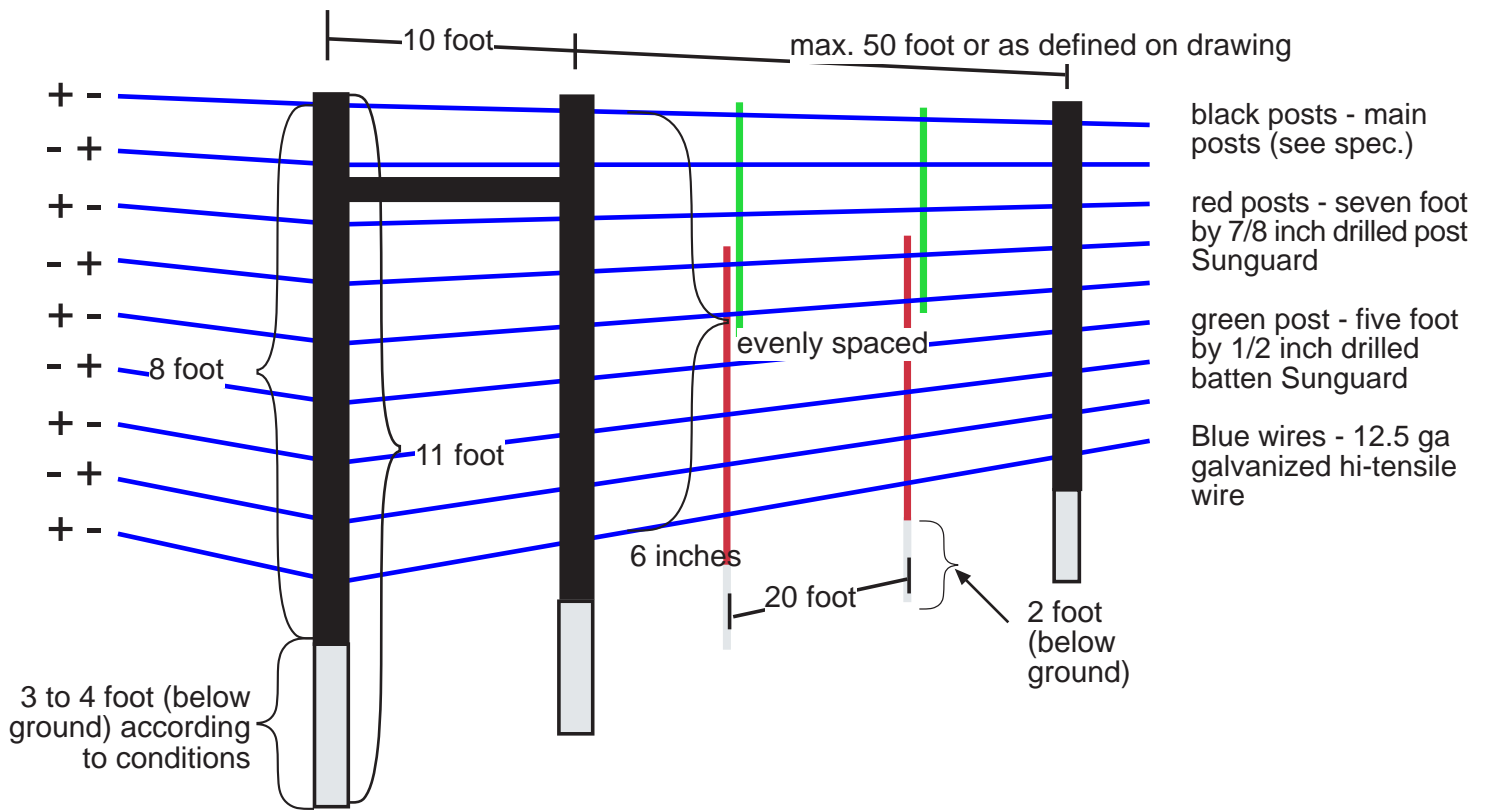
- High Tensile electric fence
- Braces
- Gates
- Yellow posts are ten-foot fiberglass spacers, or combination 7 foot/5 foot fiberglass with 2-wire overlap
- Red posts are corner, brace or run large posts. Typically, large posts spaced ten feet apart are braces and require a horizontal brace and wire tensioner



Wigwam Brook Orchard

The American Chestnut Foundation & Litchfield Hills Audubon Fence Design

as Drawn by William Adamsen 10 November 2009



Fencing Specification

Deer Fence - 9 wire 12.5 gauge high tensile electric 8 foot high

Bottom wire should be positioned no higher than 6 inches above the ground. This wire always should be electrified to prevent deer or beaver from crawling beneath the fence

Alternating "hot"/"cold" wire configuration is recommended (a bipolar charger is necessary)

Main wood posts - Rot resistant 12' .4 CCA or red cedar round - designed for 20 year life

All main wood posts (corner, brace, intermediate) designed to be set deep enough to prevent frost heave (three foot plus)

Braced corners and gates with braces of rot resistant material of same type as post

Wires to be mounted inside the fence with super strain insulator or suitable equivalent

Wigwam Brook Orchard

The American Chestnut Foundation & Litchfield Hills Audubon Fence Design

as Drawn by William Adamsen 10 November 2009

Fencing Specification (continued)

8' (or 7' + 5') above ground intermediate wire spacers with insulators allowing even spacing and energizing all wires. Should allow burying at least 1.5 feet for stability. Corrosion resistant materials such as hot dipped galvanized or Sunguard fiberglass. Two wire overlap for independent posts.

5-7 joule minimum energizer with 40 watts solar panel recharging.

Suitable Grounding system(s) and Energizer lightning protection system(s). Tested to ensure effectiveness.

Deep charge battery backup spec'd for chosen energizers and suitable for cold winter use and recommended by vendor for each energizer

Energizer mount(s) with poles and security

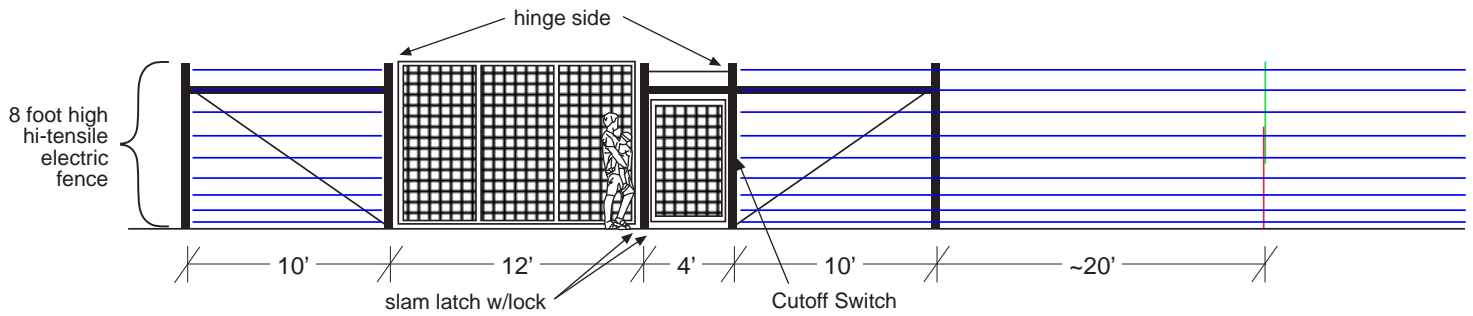
Cutoff Switch, LiveLite, low voltage - visible sensor visible from parking to advise if fence is energized for each gate system (one for adjacent gates)

System design review and approval by equipment vendor

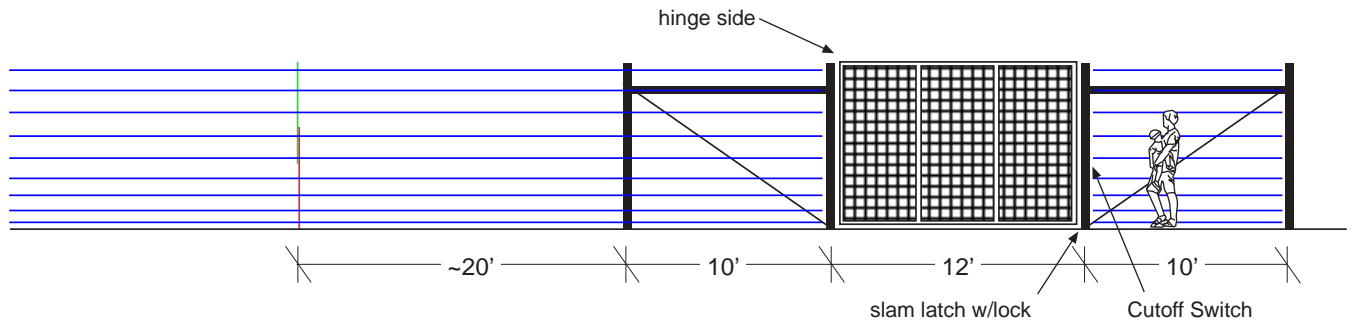
We reserve the right to reject any materials that don't conform to our expectations

Signage to warn of energized fence for both orchards

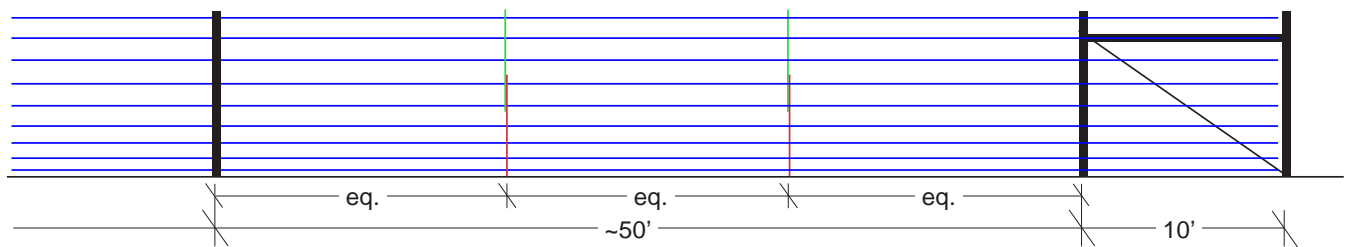
Voltage and short tester (1 unit)



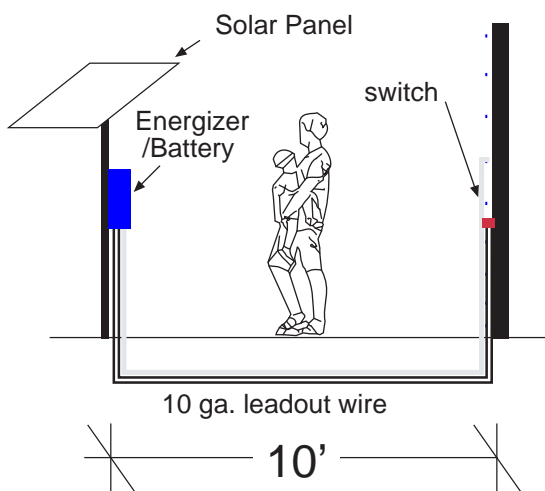
Northeast Corner Elevation showing corner and run brace, vehicle access gate and pedestrian gate



Northwest Corner Elevation showing corner and run brace, vehicle access gate



Typical Corner Elevation showing corner and run brace, spacing for wooden post and fiberglass batten.



Solar and Energizer Installation

Fencing Specification

Gates and hardware to be hot-dipped galvanized

Gates to use lockable slam latch to remove suspended weight while gate is closed.

Fiberglass posts and battens to be spaced to create equal spacing

Corner braces to brace the hi-tension run

Hi-tensile wires to be spaced equally or graduated with smaller gap at bottom to maintain that spacing on all sides.

Horizontal braces to be uniformly attached and of uniform height or level where required.

Leadout from energizer to be 10 guage with outside accessible cutoff switch

Wigwam Brook Orchard

The American Chestnut Foundation & Litchfield Hills Audubon
Fence Design

as Drawn by
William Adamsen
10 November 2009

CHESTNUT ORCHARD REPORT FROM GUILFORD - November 14, 2009

Nut planting results:

Thanks to continuing support from two local Boy Scout troops, another batch of nuts was planted in the orchard and there was a 75% germination rate. The 15 saplings which survived the vole war last year now average 41" in height, with the tallest at 72" at 17 months of age.

Brush-hogging:

Thanks to a volunteer member of the Conservation Commission, the unplanted areas in the orchard were brush-hogged which will make ploughing furrows for more nuts easier next year.

Weed control: A Junior student at Guilford High School did an excellent job cutting the grass in between the planted rows of the orchard and on both sides of the fence each week during the past summer and fall and he will receive community service credits for this activity. Weekly volunteers also weed whacked and used herbicide only sparingly.

Alternate Field manager:

The tasks of the Orchard Manager have been divided into field activities and administrative responsibilities. Steve VanDerMaelen, a Scout parent and master carpenter/craftsman who has helped with nut planting for the past two years, has indicated a willingness to take on the field management of the orchard, beginning with an overlap with me for the 2010 nut planting. Steve also loaned his several chestnut artifacts for an exhibit in Town Hall last April and for other presentations in Guilford illustrating our efforts to restore the American chestnut.

Jennifer continues her recruiting efforts to find another Conservation Commissioner who would be willing to take on orchard-related administrative tasks which include relating to the Science Coordinator and reporting to the CT-TACF Board of Directors.

"The Revival of the American Chestnut":

Jennifer prepared a 30 minute Power Point presentation for showing to a class in the Shoreline Institute of Lifelong Learning series. It was well received by the 27 registrants and is available for showing to community groups from which volunteers might be recruited. Thanks are due to Gayle Kida for sharing electronic copies of her excellent photographs in the pollination series.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Allcock, Chairperson
Guilford Conservation Commission

2009 Salem Orchard Report
Nov, 2009 – David Bingham, Orchard Manager

Nuts planted spring 2009 = 121

Survival through fall = 10

Old Lyme B4 nuts	0 of 88 planted = 0 % survival
Salem B4 nuts	0 of 18 = 0 %
Torrington "B" AO test nuts	1 of 4 = 25.0 %
Meadowview F1	0 of 4 = 0 %
VT Nursery ChO test nuts	9 of 13 = 69.2 %

Surviving from 2006, 2007 and 2008 plantings:

Enfield B4 line (2006)	68 of 151 planted	= 45.0 %
Roxbury B4 line (2007)	76 of 109	" = 69.7 %
Salem B4 line (2007)	41 of 55	" = 74.5 %
" (2008)	31 of 47	" = 66.0 %
Test Trees (2006, 2007, 2008)	55 of 130	" = 42.3 %

Total trees currently in the orchard = 271 comprising 3 CT lines

Comments: Established trees did very well this year, many of them doubling in size, and only 1 of every 25 trees died. However, the generation of new trees was a disaster, with the failure of all Salem and Old Lyme seeds to sprout. The reason is almost certainly my use of an old batch of peat for storing the nuts over the winter, associated with heavy fungal growth – a painful lesson!

Excellent sporadic rainfall meant no irrigation at all was required. Use of slow release Sta-Green fertilizer meant that no fertigation was needed, easing the workload.

The "planting party" did a wonderful job, not only getting all the planned nuts planted, but getting all of the existing trees cultivated/weeded. Thanks to all! One bad case of poison ivy occurred, and it should be noted as a future precaution that in early spring, just before leafing out, the roots and stems of poison ivy are especially juicy and toxic.

Weed-Block worked well to minimize the need for additional weeding this year. Rodent damage from voles was minimized by packing the soil around the base of the tree firmly every week or so when weeding (the animals seem to prefer to burrow in the softer soil and the packing also prevents air pockets around the roots). I do not think we had any tree losses due to the rodents this year.

The scale seen last year was not evident. Japanese beetles caused minor damage. "Leaf curl" of uncertain pathogenesis was prominent, but did not seem to hamper growth.

The Salem orchard is now closed to further planting, pending future testing and culling of poorly resistant trees a 2-3 years from now. Our biggest trees are now about 7' tall, and one flowered..

Note the planting of 2 B3F3 trees I received this spring from TACF are planted about ½ mile away (to avoid cross pollination with the orchard) on a small gravel peninsula overlooking an Eightmile River beaver meadow. Both grew to 24 inches this season. Straight-stemmed, they have true American chestnut characteristics.

DBB

Swann Farm Orchard Report
Nov 9, 2009

In April a third extremely limited line was added to the Swann Farm Orchard. Volunteers from the Northern Connecticut Land Trust planted a total of 28 nuts including 2 BC4 nuts from the Tolland Pilgrim Rd mother tree. The remaining nuts planted in April were controls. All were planted in spots where 2007 or 2008 trees had previously died or failed to germinate. Survival rates as of 10/22/2009 for trees planted in 2007, 2008, and 2009 are shown below. A summary of tree heights for all three plantings is also shown below. The 2007 trees are getting quite impressive having doubled their height over the summer. It really gives the orchard a different feel to be looking up at trees instead of looking down at them.

Sixteen of the 2007 trees died in 2009. All these trees were located in the low poorly drained portion of the orchard and probably died due to saturated soil from the extremely wet summer.

Blight has now been found on three of the 2007 BC4 trees and one 2007 American chestnut. The affected stem was removed from the American chestnut in December 2008 and from one BC4 this summer. One BC4 tree broke at the blight canker 19" off the ground during a wind storm. This tree was cut off at ground level but has since re-sprouted. The third BC4 tree has a canker on the trunk which has not been removed.

Two B3F3 seedlings from the TACF distribution were planted in June. These seedlings which were 2.8 and 1.6 feet tall on 10/22 are not included in reported orchard survival or height data.

Type	10/22/09 Survival Rate
2007 BC4 (Stafford)	82%
2007 F1	47%
2007 American	60%
2007 Chinese	93%
2008 BC4 (Rocky H.)	77%
2008 F1	08% (1 out of 13)
2008 American	100%
2008 Chinese	73%
2009 BC4 (Tolland)	50% (1 out of 2)
2009 F1	56%
2009 American	100%
2009 Chinese	100%

2007 Planting	
Ave. Height	6.2 ft
Min. Height	1.9 ft
Max Height	10.0 ft
2008 Planting	
Ave. Height	3.2 ft
Min. Height	1.2 ft
Max. Height	4.9 ft
2009 Planting	
Ave. Height	2.0 ft
Min. Height	1.1 ft
Max Height	2.7 ft

Total trees currently in the orchard = 313

Orchard Maintenance

All 2007 and 2008 trees received one application of Sta-Green granular fertilizer in April. The 2009 trees were fertilized several times with Miracid in June and July.

For the orchard's first two seasons, weed control was an ongoing problem. To address this problem WeedBlock fabric was installed around approximately 150 trees this spring decreasing our need for weeding. Additional WeedBlock is planned for 2010.

Brown leaf spot was seen on mature leaves of many 2007 trees by early September. These spots were most likely due to a fungus infection exacerbated by the wet summer. Except for these leaves dying and falling earlier than leaves on 2009 growth, there did not seem to be any detriment to the trees. If next spring and summer are also wet, this problem may increase. A small number of 2007 trees on the west side of the orchard also showed signs of powdery mildew fungus on their leaves.

This summer an associate of Gale Ridge from CAES set up two bug traps in the orchard to attempt to catch and identify the Scolytid stem borers which caused stem tip die-back on a significant number of 2007 trees in August 2008. The tip die-back was minimal this summer compared to 2008. We have not heard if the traps were successful in capturing any Scolytid adults.

Future Plans

No further plantings are planned for the orchard.

Judging from the vigorous growth of many of the taller 2007 trees this summer some Blue-X tubes will probably need to be removed in the spring. As stated above, additional WeedBlock fabric will be installed around trees in the well drained portion of the orchard. We do not plan to use fabric in the low areas since it may tend to retard evaporation from the wet soil and create more problems than it solves.

Richard Bailey
Orchard Co-Manager

Connecticut Chapter of TACF®

2010 Draft Budget - Date November 14, 2009

Category	2008 Actuals	2009 Proposed Budget	Δ Actual/ Budget 2008/2009	2009 Itemized Actual to Date	2009 Itemized Actual Projection	Notes	Δ Budget/ Actual Projection 2009	2010 Draft Budget	Notes	Δ Actual/ Budget 2009/2010	Responsibility
Income											
Memberships	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 3,840.00	-16%	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,400.00	1	-11%	\$ 3,400.00		0%	Membership
Contributions	\$ 6,710.00	\$ 4,000.00	-40%	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 3,863.00	2	-3%	\$ 4,000.00		4%	Marketing
Grants	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	-60%	\$ 867.73	\$ 5,400.00	3	35%	\$ 7,000.00		30%	Grants
Interest	\$ 327.04	\$ 250.00	-24%	\$ 86.87	\$ 100.00		-60%	\$ 100.00		0%	Finance
Total Income	\$ 21,597.04	\$ 12,090.00	-44%	\$ 4,974.60	\$ 12,763.00		6%	\$ 14,500.00		14%	
Expense											
Management Costs											
TACF Meeting Attendance	\$ 464.26	\$ 500.00	8%	\$ -		4	-100%	\$ 600.00		n/a	President
Finance	\$ 43.60	\$ 100.00	129%	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		-75%	\$ 100.00		300%	Finance
Sub-total	\$ 507.86	\$ 600.00	18%	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		-96%	\$ 700.00		2700%	
Program Services											
Education & Commun											
Annual Meeting	\$ -	\$ 610.00	n/a	\$ 999.65	\$ 999.65	5	64%	\$ 1,460.00	8	46%	Education
Other Meetings	\$ 177.40	\$ -	-100%	\$ 11.80	\$ 35.00		n/a	\$ 30.00		-14%	Education
Newsletter	\$ 1,726.88	\$ 3,200.00	85%	\$ 1,877.16	\$ 1,877.16	6	-41%	\$ 2,250.00		20%	Communications
Posters & Print	\$ 230.00	\$ 500.00	117%	\$ 160.00	\$ 320.00	7	-36%	\$ 480.00		50%	Communications
Website	\$ 245.85	\$ 108.00	-56%	\$ -	\$ 108.00		0%	\$ 108.00		0%	Communications
Marketing	\$ 568.18	\$ 550.00	-3%	\$ -	\$ 541.00		-2%	\$ 150.00		-72%	Marketing
Sub-total Ed. & Com	\$ 2,948.31	\$ 4,968.00	69%	\$ 3,048.61	\$ 3,880.81		-22%	\$ 4,478.00		15%	
Project											
Orchard Supplies	\$ 1,405.37	\$ 1,000.00	-29%	\$ 1,205.73	\$ 1,205.73		21%	\$ 1,200.00		0%	Tree Breeding
Orchard Services	\$ 548.19	\$ 600.00	9%	\$ 649.26	\$ 649.26		8%	\$ 650.00		0%	Tree Breeding
Orchard Equipment	\$ 426.38	\$ 400.00	-6%	\$ 432.70	\$ 432.70		8%	\$ 700.00		62%	Tree Breeding
Internship	\$ 189.00	\$ 1,000.00	429%	\$ 1,122.73	\$ 1,122.73		12%	\$ 6,500.00	9	479%	Tree Breeding
Deer Fence	\$ 10,800.57	\$ 3,000.00	-72%	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 2,980.00		-1%	\$ -		-100%	Tree Breeding
Sub-total Project	\$ 13,369.51	\$ 6,000.00	-55%	\$ 6,390.42	\$ 6,390.42		7%	\$ 9,050.00		42%	
Sub-total Prog Services	\$ 16,317.82	\$ 10,968.00	-33%	\$ 9,439.03	\$ 10,271.23		-6%	\$ 13,528.00		32%	
Total Expense	\$ 16,825.68	\$ 11,568.00	-31%	\$ 9,464.03	\$ 10,296.23		-11%	\$ 14,228.00		38%	
Net Income	\$ 4,771.36	\$ 522.00	-89%	\$ (4,489.43)	\$ 2,466.77		373%	\$ 272.00		-89%	

1 Membership levels have dropped significantly for all of TACF. CT Chapter down 20%.

2 Contribution from an Anonymous source plus \$2840 from Northeast Utilities (awaiting check from TACF)

3 USFS Grants awaiting payment from TACF and some need to be submitted

4 CT-TACF President was unable to attend TACF annual meeting

5 Costs for food and one speaker

6 One newsletter mailed ... includes cost of mailing

7 Not specifically posters - software (web-site, print design, poster design)

8 Costs for two presenters and food. See Annual Meeting Report.

9 Requires discussion on internship

Connecticut Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation
Balance Sheet November 14, 2009

	2008	2009	Change
Current Assets			
Checking Account	\$ 2,649.00	\$ 2,053.00	\$ (596.00)
Money Market	\$ 15,293.00	\$ 11,399.00	\$ (3,894.00)
Torrington Savings Bank	<u>\$ 1,811.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,811.00</u>	<u> </u>
Total	\$ 19,753.00	\$ 15,263.00	\$ (4,490.00)
 Total Liabilities	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -
 Total Net Assets	 \$ 19,753.00	 \$ 15,263.00	 \$ (4,490.00)

Notes: Income to be received:

\$ 2,500	From the USFS Sub-Award for Litchfield Fence Grant
\$ 2,842	Disbursement from NU grant
\$ 1,450	From the USFS Sub-Award for Aton Intenship
\$ 582	From the USFS Sub-Award for Aton Intenship
<u>Total =</u>	<u>\$ 7,374</u>

JOHN C. BAKER
52 HEADQUARTERS ROAD
LITCHFIELD, CT 06759-2114
Tel. (860) 567-8427
Email: berryledges@optonline.net

June 5, 2009

Mr. Bill Adamsen, President
CT Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation
150 Drum Hill Road
Wilton, CT 06897

Dear Bill,

RE: Audit of CT-TACF 2008 Books

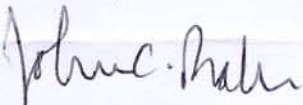
Basis the documents and materials provided, I have examined the CT-TACF accounts and records of the treasurer for the year 2008 and have found them to be correct and in order.

Also, the treasurer has substantially met the requirements of the Bylaws, and basis my non-professional expertise, the record keeping appears to meet generally accepted accounting practices.

Congratulations to Jim on a job well done in organizing the records to facilitate an audit.

Please advise if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John C. Baker

cc: Jim Gage

Connecticut Chapter 2009 Pollination Report

This summer's pollination was notable for a huge effort to find potential mother trees. Our board members, a Duke University summer intern, members of associated volunteer groups and many Connecticut residents, all joined in to help. We began our search reviewing the 34 trees at 27 locations we already had on file in March. As is usual, many of these were not flowering, or were Chinese, Japanese or partially American hybrid trees. Many new reports came in during June and July, but we could only check out about a dozen before we ran out of time to arrange bucket trucks. We were able to pollinate six mother trees: five new lines and one re-pollination. In all, more than 47 new trees at 43 locations were reported from May through October. About 50 leaf samples were received by Kendra Gurney for an initial ID; some were forwarded to Sara Fitzsimmons and Fred Hebard as needed. It appears that more than a dozen reported trees are American chestnut, so we have high hopes they will bloom next year.

Mother Nature gave us unusually cool and cloudy weather during June and July, when the flowers were maturing. The flowers developed very slowly, probably due to lack of sunshine and warmth, with female burs lagging behind the male catkins. This made it even more difficult to time the bucket trucks. This year our pre-bagging took place from June 30 through July 8, with pollinations July 7 through July 21. In previous years our pre-bagging dates have usually been around June 19 through July 3, with pollinations from June 28 through July 13. So it appears the flowers were delayed about a week, even longer in some locations. Sadly, some trees aborted female flowers between bagging and pollination, leaving us with fewer potential burs and seeds.

We were fortunate to have a summer intern from Duke University helping us find trees and organizing pollinations in Western CT. Christine Cadigan, candidate for Master of Environmental Management and Master of Forestry, worked with Bill Moorhead to map the most promising areas along Litchfield County roads to find American chestnuts. She worked with Bartlett Tree Experts' Charlie White, long time CT Chapter member John Baker, and Woods Sinclair to pollinate the Warren and Salisbury trees, assisted Bill Moorhead with a tree in Litchfield, and joined Kendra Gurney and Phil Arnold to bag and re-pollinate a tree at CAES' Lockwood Farms.

Bartlett Tree Experts' Simsbury office also came out to Eastern CT, where Charlie, Mike McGee and Gayle Kida worked on the profusely blooming Willington tree, while the Guilford office teamed with David Bingham to pollinate a new pair of tall trees in Salem. We harvested at the usual time, the last few days of September through the first week of October. Our pollination results:

Salem, Nehantic: 190 nuts	Salisbury, Mt. Washington: 37 nuts
Warren: 20 nuts	Willington: 502 nuts
Hamden, Lockwood Farms: 15 additional nuts	Litchfield - 16 nuts (need to confirm number)

CT-TACF would like to thank Bartlett Tree Experts Simsbury office for going the extra mile both vertically and horizontally – a steep, winding climb up Mt. Washington, and a long distance loop to harvest the Willington, Mt. Washington and Warren trees on the same day! We enjoyed success our first year partnering with Bartlett's Guilford office, and appreciated their Stamford office was ready to work with any southwestern CT trees. Thanks again to everyone who sent in reports and to all our mother tree owners. Special thanks to Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis for giving us access to the great trees at Lockwood Farms. Also, the manager of Manchester Marriott, Jim Marcil, met with me so I could collect catkins from our former mother tree. Kuras Farms in West Suffield again generously allowed me to bag two trees for F1's and collect Chinese seeds.

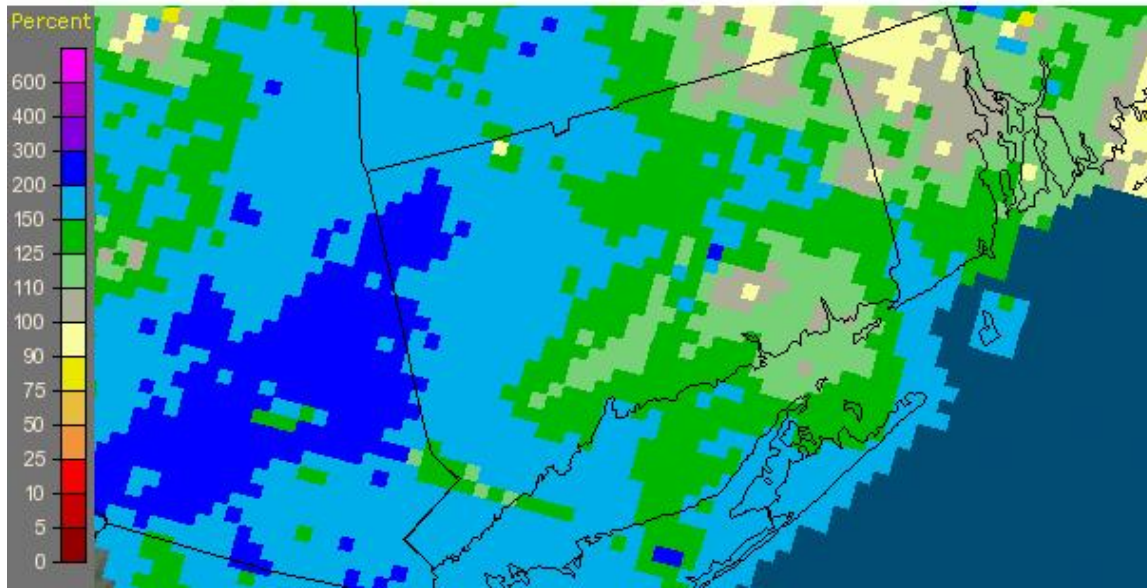
Gayle Kida
CT Chapter Pollination Committee

2009 Pollination Season Weather, just how much wetter and colder was it?

June 2009 precipitation map from:

http://water.weather.gov/index.php?layer%5B%5D=0&layer%5B%5D=1&layer%5B%5D=4&time%5B%5D=YM&loctype=STATE&units=engl&timeframe=current&timeYYYY=2009&timeMM=6&product=per_normal&loc=stateCT

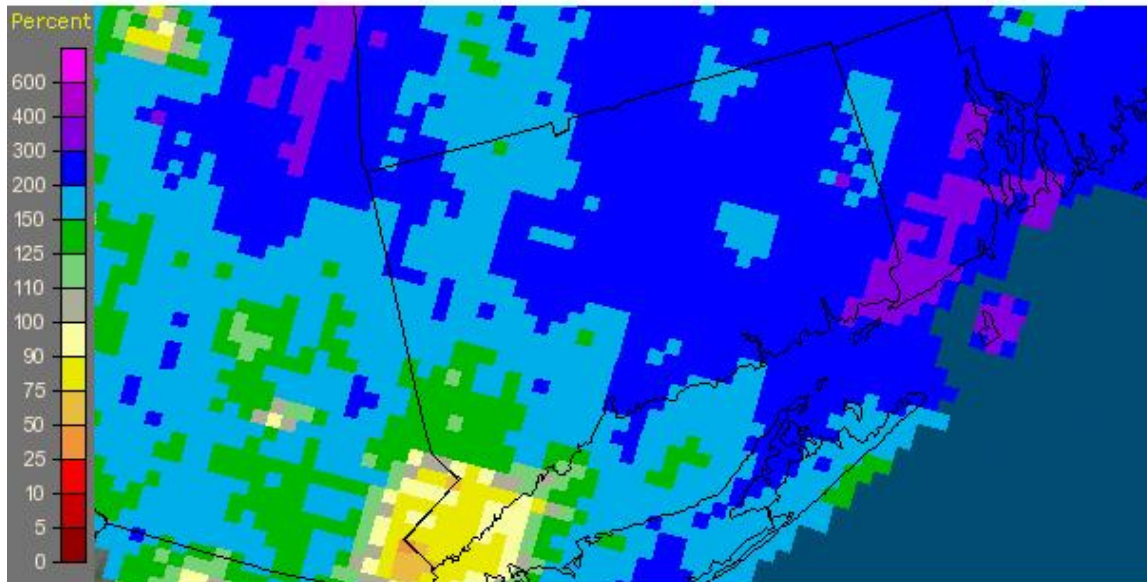
Connecticut: June, 2009 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 7/1/2009 1200 UTC- Created 7/1/09 22:48 UTC



July 2009 precipitation map from:

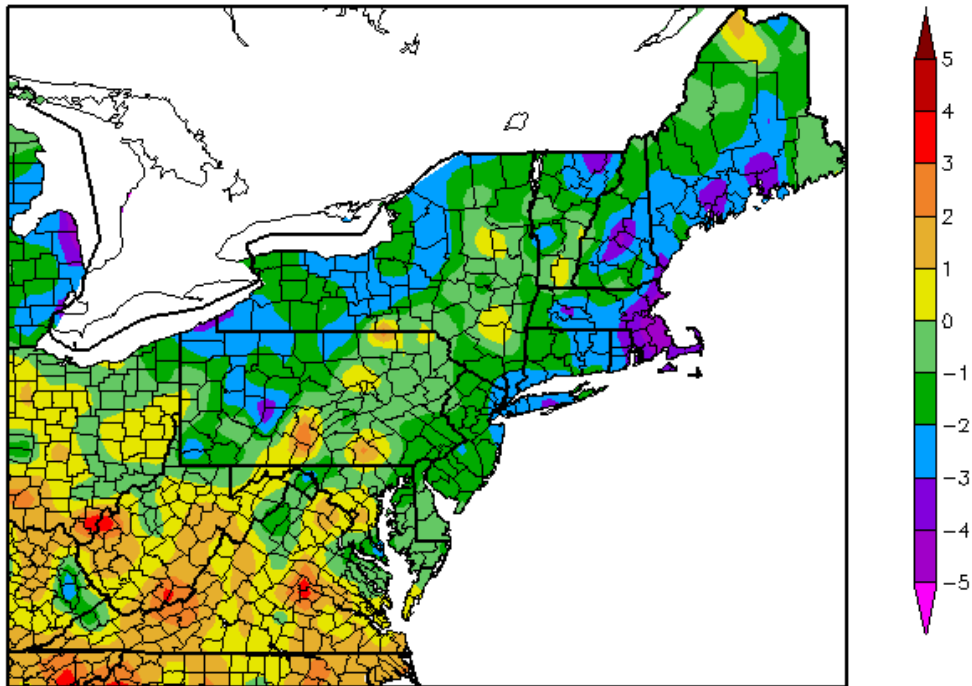
http://water.weather.gov/index.php?layer%5B%5D=0&layer%5B%5D=1&layer%5B%5D=4&time%5B%5D=YM&loctype=STATE&units=engl&timeframe=current&timeYYYY=2009&timeMM=7&product=per_normal&loc=stateCT

Connecticut: July, 2009 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 8/1/2009 1200 UTC- Created 8/1/09 22:49 UTC



June and July Temperature maps generated from:
http://www.nrcc.cornell.edu/page_summaries.htm

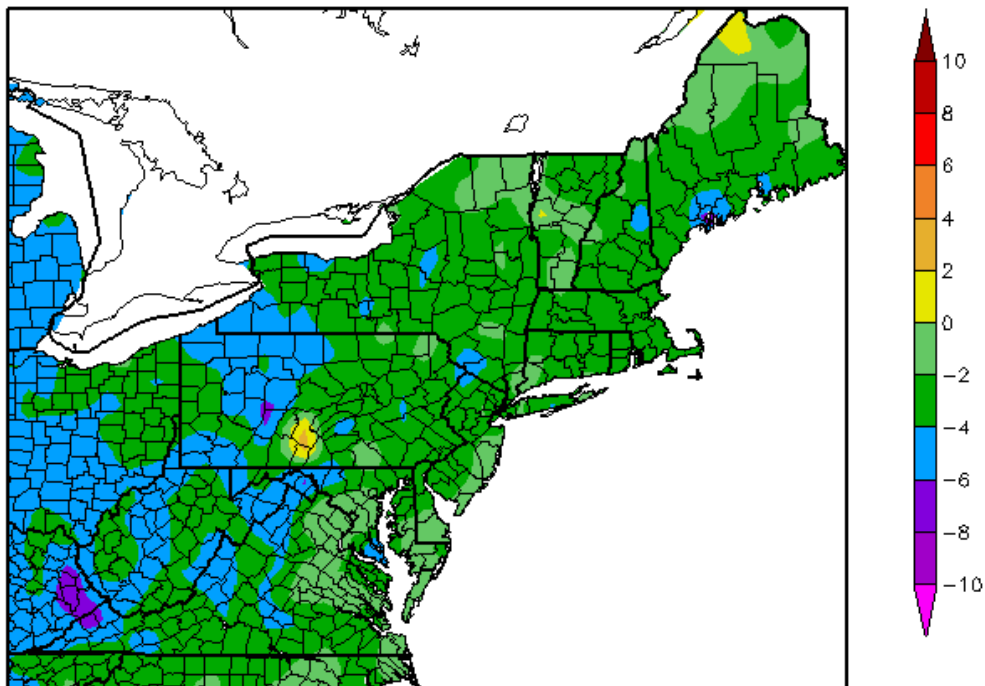
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/1/2009 – 6/30/2009



Generated 7/11/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2009 – 7/31/2009



Generated 8/11/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers