

Considerations for Chestnut Orchards

Please use the following considerations, in conjunction with the planting manual, to help make some of the important decisions that will guide the management of your chestnut orchard. If you have alternative ideas or any questions, look to the Regional Science Coordinator and experienced chapter orchard managers for input. There is certainly more to growing chestnut than is on these two pages, but thinking about these issues is a good place to start!

Site Selection

Soil Type: Chariton-Chatfield complex

Predominantly: Sandy Loam Clay

Soil pH: 5-5.2

Any amendments needed to lower pH to 4.5 - 6.5? no

Amendments: _____

Sun Exposure: Full Partial Shade

Site Preparation: Brush-cutting and/or removal

Mowing Tilling Herbicide - Crossbow

- cover crop of conservation mix

Spacing

Orchard Size: 1.5 acres

Number of trees possible (average ~350/acre): 494

Spacing:

Between rows: 15' feet

Between trees: 7' feet

** Recommendation is 15 feet between rows, 7 feet between trees.**

Planting Method

Direct Seeding

Seedlings

Grower: Wigwam Brook Orchard - test trees

Potting Mix: orchard-grown-1yr

Ready Date: to be transplanted at planting

* will pre-auger planting holes

Recommended soil mixes include:

- 1/3 each peat, perlite and vermiculite
- Scott's Moisture Control

If potting seeds in early spring, use of small "Cone-tainer" type pots produces a decent root plug for transplanting. Remember, seedlings will require more water and early care than direct seeded material.

Growing chestnuts can be a very rewarding experience, but there is a lot of work involved too.

Resolving these consideration will help make your orchard successful!

A good site map and planting plan are the best ways to visualize your planting. But recording some site characters, determining spacing and planting method may help to identify any possible issues or special considerations up front.

If no maintenance equipment needs access to the orchard, 8' x 8' spacing can be used. Please discuss special circumstances or alternative plans with the local chapter and/or the Regional Science Coordinator.



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Maintenance

These are important considerations and decisions should be made based on the characteristics of the site and philosophy of the orchard manager.

A variety of approaches will accomplish the same goal: keeping the chestnut trees alive and growing!

Deer Control**X Deer fencing**

Type electric or woven wire

Height 8 feet or 10 feet

Tree shelters

Make/Material _____

Height _____ feet Diameter _____ inches

Rodent/Varmint Control

Shelter Type Bive-X

Height 18" Diameter 2 1/2 or 3"

Sink shelters to a depth of ~2" at planting time to prevent access to roots by tunneling rodents

Weed Control**X Herbicide**

Type/Brand: Round-up - fence perimeter ^{planting spaces +}

Application frequency: at least 1x per yr

Landscape Fabric ^(or as needed)

Type: _____

____ Rows OR ____ Squares (3' x 3' recommended)

Fertilization

Type: Osmocote (or a lt. slow release)

Application frequency: 1x per year

Watering

Water source: pump-off-site

Transportation method: 55 gal drum w/

Additional equipment needed? nose

Labels

Type: Tags

Attachment method: start on bamboo stake, transfer to trees

Tube shelters, such as Tree-Pro, Tube-X and Blu-X, have all been used for TACF orchards. Some growers choose to make their own out of wire. Check with your local chapter for recommendations.

Sinking tube shelters a few inches into the ground can be an effective method of vole protection. Cylinders made of aluminum flashing or hardware cloth are also options.

Further Recommendations

Herbicide: Round-Up Pro or Round-Up Ultra work well. Both have a surfactant included for easy mixing.

Landscape fabric: Shaw Fabric's Lumite Weed Barrier has been highly recommended!

Fertilizer: Mir-Acid or a similar fast or slow-release acid-loving fertilizer.

Watering: A large portable tank and a pump can be a good fix for sites without a direct water source.

Labels: Writing with a paint marker directly on a tube shelter is a great way to mark trees. Tags attached to branches often cause damage.

Litchfield Hills Audubon Orchard -- Draft Budget for 2010

Expected Planting 200 of the Willington Tree 20 Flat Rocks Road 30 Various Controls (OPA, Chinese, other) 250							
Item #	Supplies - Item	Unit/Pkg	Category	Supplier	Estimated Unit Price (\$)	Qty	Extended Cost (\$)
1	Crossbow Herbicide per gallon	1	Pre-Planting	Agway - Torrington	\$ 59.99	2	\$ 119.98
2	Sharpie Industrial Markers Black (Pollbag#s)	10	Pre-Planting	Staples	\$ 10.49	1	\$ 10.49
3	563 Speedry Paint Markers - Black	each	Pre-Planting	Forestry Suppliers	\$ 2.60	1	\$ 2.60
4	Bluex 15" Tubes	each	Pre-Planting	Griffin Greenhouse Supply	\$ 0.49	250	\$ 122.50
5	Post hole auger rental		Planting		\$ 85.00	2	\$ 170.00
6	3' 3/8" Bamboo Stakes for BlueXTubes (bale 500)	1	Planting	Griffin Greenhouse Supply	\$ 23.95	1	\$ 23.95
7	Vermiculite 6 Cubic Foot Bale	1	Planting	Griffin Greenhouse Supply	\$ 18.11	2	\$ 36.22
8	Perlite 6 Cubic Foot Bale	1	Planting	Griffin Greenhouse Supply	\$ 18.28	2	\$ 36.56
9	Milled Peat Moss 3.8 Cubic Foot Bale	1	Planting	Griffin Greenhouse Supply	\$ 10.39	2	\$ 20.78
10	Seeding for erosion control - grass or local phenotype forb mix	1	Planting		\$ 280.00		\$ -
11	Miracid (Water Soluble Azalea Food) 30-10-10 5 lb.	box	Maintenance	Agway - Torrington	\$ 8.99	3	\$ 26.97
12	Sta-Green 14-7-7 slow release acid fertilizer - 14 pound	1	Maintenance	Agway - Torrington	\$ 11.92	3	\$ 35.76
13	Osmocote Time Release Fertilizer	1	Maintenance	Agway - Torrington	\$ 10.99	5	\$ 54.95
14	RoundUp Super Concentrate Herbicide Gallon	1	Maintenance	Agway - Torrington	\$ 113.35	2	\$ 226.70
15	Water Tank and Hose for spot irrigation	1	Maintenance	Agway - Torrington	\$ 200.00	1	\$ 200.00
16	Fuel (Mowing)	1	Maintenance		\$ 3.40		\$ -
	Sub-Total						\$ 1,087.46
	10% Contingency						\$ 150.00
	Requested Budget						\$ 1,237.46

Wigwam Brook Orchard
 John Baker and Tom Traver

204 Planting Spaces



Row 1 starts in the South-East corner, along the beaver dam/wetland

Beaver Dam/Wetland Area														
Position	Row 13	Row 12	Row 11	Row 10	Row 9	Row 8	Row 7	Row 6	Row 5	Row 4	Row 3	Row 2	Row 1	Position
1														1
2														2
3														3
4														4
5														5
6										Am				6
7										Am				7
8										Am				8
9										Am				9
10										Am				10
11									Am	Am				11
12									Am	Am				12
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Position	Row 13	Row 12	Row 11	Row 10	Row 9	Row 8	Row 7	Row 6	Row 5	Row 4	Row 3	Row 2	Row 1	Position

Road