

Freeze Update Pt. 2: Harvest

After the fall harvest, we again surveyed growers across the country to see how their crops turned out, especially considering the Easter weekend freeze. Growers were affected differently, but most still had a crop.



Late season flowering – all stages – from June flower-burs ready to open to late August flower, September, down to Sept. 20 flowering on the farm of Charlie NovoGradac.

Following are their reports:

“At our Lawrence, Kan., orchard, our 2007 crop was about, in total, about one-half our 2006 crop, which was itself a light crop. Our chestnuts were, on average, slightly larger and of good quality – so say our customers. We have pre-productive and other trees intermixed in our orchard so I have to estimate roughly that we gathered 100-200 lbs. of chestnuts per acre. This is one fifth of what we had expected by this time (12-13 year old trees).

“Sharp cold snaps in transitional seasons and our valley site seem to be our limitation. (We are sometimes 6-8 degrees colder overnight than other nearby weather stations.) But each of the four or five damaging cold-weather events we have experienced since 1995 were record-breakers for their dates. (cont. pg. 8)

Chestnuts as Antioxidant?

The health properties of chestnuts just keep getting better. This time, it’s chestnut skins, leaves, flowers and fruit that are getting a look – as a natural antioxidant.

Researchers from the University of Porto (Portugal) report in the journal Food Chemistry that the outer skin of *Castanea sativa* Miller offers a rich source of polyphenols, compounds with potent antioxidant activity. The outer skins were the richest source, followed by the inner skins, flowers and leaves (the fruit had the least amount).

“As far as we know, this is the first report concerning the antioxidant activity of five different chestnut extracts,” the Food Chemistry report stated.

Synthetic antioxidants are widely used in the food industry, according to the report. However, they have been found to be carcinogenic, and so now interest in natural antioxidants is growing.

From the journal: “The results obtained indicate a high potential of application for these chestnuts extracts, traditionally considered as disposable byproducts. After adequate treatment they can, for example, be included in foods with remarkable benefits for human or animal health.”

Food Chemistry is available online at www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchem CGA

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A Message from the President

MIKE GOLD
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
CENTER FOR AGROFORESTRY

The frigid winter is upon us here in the Midwest, nighttime temperatures in the single digits or colder if you live in the northern tier of States. It is a time for

reflection and for thoughts on the future of the U.S. chestnut industry.

*There are still many unknowns regarding chestnut production in the U.S. In the eastern U.S. we typically grow Chinese chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*), although the genetic background of many of the chestnuts grown is often a confusing jumble of chestnut species. West coast producers grow 'Colossal' (a Japanese x European hybrid) and other European (*C. sativa*) cultivars. Michigan producers grow 'Colossal' and other Chinese cultivars. We have over 55 different cultivars growing at our research farm in New Franklin, Mo. While we know that many of our cultivars are pure Chinese, we have no idea where the germplasm (seed source) actually came from within China. Similar to the eastern U.S., eastern China is a huge region with a large amount of climatic variation from north to south. The double combination of exotic germplasm of unknown origin and lack of long-term testing in various regions of the U.S., leads us to worry that unexpected climate extremes (long droughts, super hot and dry summers, killing spring or fall freezes, very low winter temperatures) might result in serious damage to our fledgling industry. Some of our cultivars will prove to be poorly matched to our regional climate. The same scenario will hold true throughout the entire U.S. as growers continue to plant cultivars that have not been adequately tested in their respective regions. This is why long-term (15-20 years) cultivar testing at many locations is essential to support the chestnut industry.*

As reported in the Summer 2007 issue of The Chestnut Grower, we had an unexpected climate extreme "Spring Freeze" last April. So, we wondered what would happen to our Chinese chestnut cultivars. Some cultivars yielded well, others performed poorly (see article by Ken Hunt in this issue). The good news: we DID have a crop, perhaps 70 percent of a full crop, and we learned more about the cultivars. This was very encouraging as we are advising local growers to start producing chestnut on a commercial basis.

On another note, the CGA Board has settled on a Summer 2008 annual meeting on the west coast. Some details are mentioned later in this issue; the Spring 2008 issue of The Chestnut Grower should have full details. Stay warm and/or dry. Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

CHESTNUT GROWERS OF AMERICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Mike Gold (573) 884-1448
e-mail goldm@missouri.edu
VICE PRESIDENT Dennis Fulbright (517) 353-4506
e-mail fulbrig1@msu.edu
SECRETARY-TREASURER Ray Young (360) 887-3669
e-mail ray@chestnutsonline.com
DIRECTOR Lucienne Grunder (209) 848-4816
e-mail owl-nuts@ix.netcom.com
DIRECTOR Charlie NovoGradac (785) 841-8505
e-mail nuts2sell@aol.com
DIRECTOR Bill Nash (517) 651-5278
e-mail nashfarm@shianet.org
DIRECTOR Sandy Bole (503) 625-1248
e-mail BenBole@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Mike Gold
(573) 884-1448 e-mail: goldm@missouri.edu
Newsletter Coordinator: Michelle Hall
(573) 882-9866 e-mail: hallmich@missouri.edu

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES

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Consumers Becoming More Familiar with Chestnuts

by Ina Cernusca, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry

The University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA) in Columbia, Mo., has organized the Missouri Chestnut Roast festival at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, Mo., for the past five years. The festival showcases chestnuts, walnuts, pecans and other value-added, niche, locally produced agricultural products.

The 2007 Roast was also used to complete a longitudinal study started in 2003 to assess consumers' familiarity with chestnuts and to launch a new study identifying consumers' preferences for different chestnut attributes.

The chestnut roast festival attracted new participants every year along with repeat visitors (17% repeat visitors in 2004, 12% in 2005, 25% in 2006 and 30% in 2007). The study revealed that frequency of chestnut consumption increased from 2003 to 2007 (the number of people who have never tasted a chestnut decreased while the number of people that consume chestnuts increased - Fig. 1).

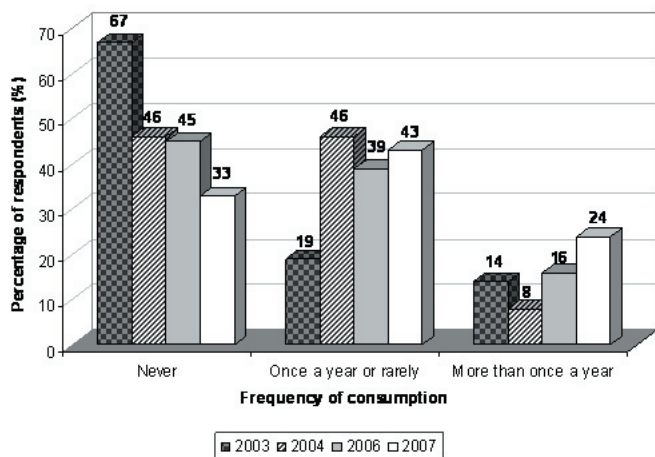


Fig. 1: Changes in frequency of chestnut consumption over a five year period

Comparing first time Chestnut Roast visitors to repeat visitors reveals a dramatic difference in frequency of chestnut consumption. In 2007, 47% of first time visitors had never eaten chestnuts compared to 3% of repeat visitors (Fig. 2). The Missouri Chestnut Roast not only created the opportunity for people to taste chestnuts for the first time but also increased the likelihood people would buy chestnuts more often and eat them roasted or in recipes. Eleven percent of first time visitors consumed chestnuts 2-3 times per year compared to 23% of repeat visitors. Similarly, 14% of

first time visitors indicated that they were familiar or very familiar with roasting chestnuts compared to 38% of return visitors. Finally, while 78% of first time visitors were not at all familiar with cooking chestnuts only 38% of return visitors were not at all familiar with cooking chestnuts.

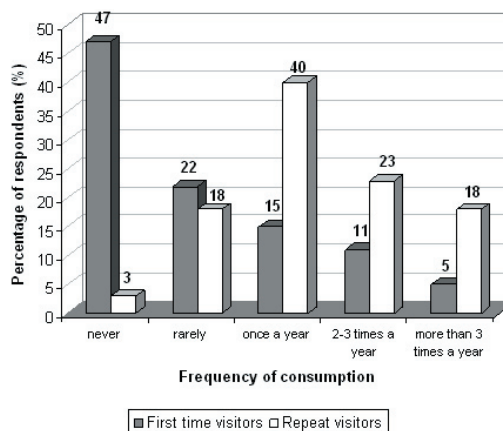


Fig. 2: Frequency of consumption compared between first time and repeat visitors

The Missouri Chestnut Roast is promoted as a family event where people can have fun with music, food, shopping, scenery, and children's activities. Survey results indicate that 67% of respondents came to the roast to enjoy a day out. In addition to "a day out" the Roast provides many learning opportunities (71% of respondents came to learn about chestnuts and 40% to learn about agroforestry). Even though the roast celebrates many locally grown agricultural specialty crops (41% of respondents came to purchase Missouri-produced value-added products), the chestnuts are the big attraction (64% came to eat roasted chestnuts and 35% to buy chestnuts) (Fig. 3).

A new study was initiated in 2007 to assess consumers' preferences for different chestnut attributes using conjoint analysis. The study objectives were to determine relative importance that consumers place on chestnut characteristics (e.g., size, origin, production method and price), identify salient product characteristics that producers should adopt for effective marketing purposes and explore differences in consumer preferences by market segments. Results indicated that consumers are 10 times more likely to choose Missouri chestnuts, and 5 times more likely to select U.S. chestnuts compared to imported nuts. Their preference for medium-sized chestnuts is 1.89 times higher than for small ones. Price is the least (cont. pg. 10)

Chestnut-Themed Events a Hit Coast to Coast

There's no time like National Chestnut Week to jump-start your chestnut sales each year. Marketing an event, such as a chestnut roast, to coincide with National Chestnut Week, is a great way to bring consumers to your orchard and even possibly get some free advertising for your event and your business!

Take it from Ray and Carolyn Young, Allen Creek Farms, and the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. Both have chestnut-themed events each fall to celebrate National Chestnut Week.

Here are summaries and thoughts from both Carolyn Young and Michelle Hall about their farms' respective chestnut-themed events. Hope this helps get your creative juices flowing for next year!

From Carolyn Young, Chestnut Festival, Allen Creek Farms, Ridgefield, Wash.:

Our Chestnut Festival was held Saturday, Oct. 13, and coincided with "Bird Fest," the big fall social event in Ridgefield. We had signs in many of the businesses in town in addition to directional signs from the freeway, and the signs in addition to a beautiful fall day drew at least 600 people. Fortunately we had someone directing parking, a couple of others doing sales for us so we could demonstrate equipment and

talk with people. As usual, our maze was a highlight especially for the kids. I had prepared about twice as many of our mixes for sale as we sold last year and we ran out by about 2:00. Our net for the four-hour event



was over \$1,900. Had more of our mixes been available it would have been well over \$2,000.

The shocker was who came. I sent out e-mails to everyone in our database who lives in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. We had people here from all over

those places. The surprise was when four of our customers showed up from Tewksbury, Mass. They've been buying from us since we started our Internet sales in 2002. They flew in on Friday night and flew home on Sunday. As soon as they got home they ordered another 40 lbs.! Now that's customer loyalty.

People really have a curiosity about what goes on on a farm and they enjoy the opportunity to see it firsthand. They also have a real curiosity about chestnuts. For the majority it's something brand new and it has a mystique about it. For those who haven't had an open house or event of some kind you're missing a great opportunity. Yes, it takes some organization and planning, but the profit is there and the opportunity to educate people can't be beat.

From Michelle Hall, Missouri Chestnut Roast, University of Missouri Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center, New Franklin, Mo.:

"Held rain or shine" hadn't meant much before to the Missouri Chestnut Roast. Until this year.

Oct. 13 brought a slow but steady drizzle to mid-Missouri, the Chestnut Roast included. Although the ground was damp, spirits were not, as vendors, entertainers, staff and volunteers prepared for the day's festivities. Would the crowds also turn out?

The answer: Yes. The fourth annual roast in 2006 had seen more than 5,000 attendees. While this year's event didn't draw as large of a crowd, estimates are that 2,000 people came to sample chestnuts, tour the farm, listen to bluegrass music, and check out the vendors and exhibitors. One family drove down from Iowa specifically to purchase pine straw, for example.

"It made us see how much the Roast means to the people of mid-Missouri – how much they enjoy it," said Julie Rhoads, event coordinator. "For people to come out on such a dreary day is a testament to the importance of the event.

"We were thrilled by the turnout, even with the less-than-desirable weather." (cont. next page)



These young Missouri Chestnut Roast attendees didn't let a little rain stop them from having fun in the straw bale maze.

“The show must go on” took on a new meaning, as workers’ jobs shifted slightly to keeping the ground from getting muddy with straw from bales set out for other purposes, for example. Most activities are held under tents rain or shine, and extra umbrellas were on hand.

“Everyone was very flexible and that helped a good time to still be had by all,” Rhoads said. “We all made the most of it.”

Oct. 13 also witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony for a new education/research facility at the Research Center. In future years, this facility will serve to put a real roof over the Roast if the weather turns bad. CGA



Keeping most activities under tents means the Missouri Chestnut Roast can go on rain or shine.

Event Planning 101

Julie Rhoads, technology transfer events coordinator for the University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry, has organized many activities for the Center, including five Missouri Chestnut Roasts, bringing in more than 5,000 guests to the Center’s farm its biggest year. Here she shares what she’s learned, with rules, tips and questions to think about before putting on your own event.

1) Identify an organizer

Choose the person to organize the event and oversee the details. This person should be a “people person”; be organized; able to multi-task; willing to delegate tasks; flexible and open to suggestions; able to recruit volunteers, if needed; able to raise funds, if needed; and be a quick problem solver.

2) Identify who you want to attend

Will your target audience be the general public, landowners, professionals, hobbyists? Are you targeting families with children? Who you wish to attend makes a big difference in other aspects of the event, such as the way you get the word out and the activities you plan.

3) Identify what you want to emphasize or market

Establish a theme for the event to give people an idea of what to expect and a reason to attend. Ideas include a harvest festival for your crop; an event showcasing your orchards at a particular point in the growing season; or an event to teach your growing and production methods to others.

4) Identify when you want to hold the event

The theme you identify will typically drive this as to

what part of the year. But be sure to pick a specific date as early as possible to give yourself time to plan and make all necessary arrangements. You might even think about having your event on the same day as another community event to help draw crowds.

5) Identify where you want to hold the event

Again, other choices you make will probably guide this choice as well. But it is still important to consider the possibilities – your orchards; your on-farm store; a local farmer’s market; at another similar business where you would co-host. In addition, if you are planning to hold the event rain or shine, it is imperative to provide some type of shelter for attendees. Access to either permanent restrooms or porta-potties is also important to consider for your guests.

6) Get the word out about your event

Sources for free publicity include word of mouth; flyers placed in community spaces; announcement on your Web site or in your newsletter; placement on various community calendars; news releases to local media, including newspapers, television stations and radio stations; and an announcement to any sort of mailing list of customers or other “friends” of your business you might have. In addition, it can help to bring your event to the attention of your local University Extension agent. Make sure any information you send out or post about your event includes the “who, what, where and when.” Finally, including a list of activities and a map, if possible, in any information about your event is also helpful to potential attendees. CGA

Chestnut Management in Mediterranean Countries

by Sandra Anagnostakis, *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

Chestnut Management in Mediterranean Countries: Problems and Prospects, an excellent international workshop held in Turkey in October, brought together chestnut scientists and orchardists from all over Europe, and one (me) from the U.S. There was instant translation provided via headphones, so that those who preferred to speak in Turkish could be understood by English speakers, and vice versa. The biggest concern in Turkey, now, is chestnut blight disease, which has only recently moved into the country and is causing extensive damage in the orchards. There were many reports of survey and biocontrol projects given, and considerable discussion about the best way to continue to supply the chestnuts required by the factories. The Kafkas company of Bursa provided funds for the meeting, and their concern is shared by many others.

I also heard talks on problems that we don't have yet, such as *Cytospora* and *Diplodia* cankers, cankers caused by the hazel pathogen *Pestalotiopsis*, and infestation of the nuts by the codling moth, *Cydia splendana*. There was some interest in ink disease and in wood production, but orchard tree selection, protection and propagation was certainly the prime topic. There were several talks and posters about methods and timing of grafting, and there was one talk on tissue culture propagation (not yet successful).

The meeting finished with a tour of the Kafkas factory (with samples!) which was a real pleasure, and the gala banquet the final evening was a really fine event. Besides providing a lot of wonderful food, there was entertainment by a group of local musicians and singers which led, naturally, to dancing. Yes, I danced.

Our host, Prof. Dr. Arif Soyulu from Uludag University in Bursa, did a very good job in managing a varied and informative program. I learned a lot, and enjoyed making new friends in the chestnut world. CGA

The author can be reached by e-mail at Sandra.Anagnostakis@po.state.ct.us



Top: A presentation on chestnut blight. Middle and bottom: Images from the tour of Kafkas chestnut factory. Photos courtesy Sandra Anagnostakis.

This Just In: Chestnuts in the News

Congratulations to all of these growers for getting the word out not only about their name and business, but also about chestnuts in general:

The Daily Camera, Boulder, Colo., Dec. 22, "Holiday Traditions: Chestnuts more popular in song. American growers try to make comeback with nut," Mike Gold, University of Missouri.

Midland Daily News, Dec. 9, "Hot Stuff," Dennis Fulbright, Michigan State University.

EatingWell, "Our Favorite Chestnut Grower: Harvey Correia farms a holiday classic in sunny California," Correia Chestnut Farms.

Wine Spectator magazine, Nov. 30, "Cooking with Chestnuts," Dennis Fulbright. A sidebar listing different chestnut growers across the country included Allen Creek Farm, Chestnut Growers Inc., Delmarvelous Chestnuts, Marky's and Trails End Chestnuts.

Palo Alto Daily News, Nov. 23, "Turnaround time: For farming family, the holiday season means chestnuts are out, fir trees are in," Hans Johsens, Skyline Chestnuts.

Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 18, "After 15 years, Del. couple in high cotton with chestnuts," Gary and Nancy Petitt, Delmarvelous Chestnuts.

The Columbian, Oct. 13, "Ridgefield rocking, roasting: City busy this weekend with Chestnut Festival, BirdFest and Bluegrass," Ray and Carolyn Young, Allen Creek Farm.

The Columbia Daily Tribune, Oct. 10, "In a Nutshell: Break chestnuts out of their shells for this weekend's Missouri Chestnut Roast," Mike Gold.

Hobby Farms magazine, September/October, "The Champions of Chestnuts," Gary and Nancy Petitt, Delmarvelous Chestnuts.

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Freeze Pt. 2 (cont. from front page)

This year's Easter weekend frost event was unusually bad, evidenced by the fact that all the apple orchards in our area were wiped out for the 2007 season. So we remain optimistic that chestnuts can endure some late frosts and still put on fruit. Furthermore, we hope that "normal" weather will bring fuller harvests.

"Notwithstanding the freeze and lack of rain throughout the hot summer months our trees appeared generally healthy, with vigorous growth and good leaf color. Results from our leaf analysis were pretty much normal in all nutrients – good news since we do not use fertilizer. So we are reconfirmed in our belief that the chestnut trees can be sustainably grown as a low-input crop.

"In September we experienced a curious thing. Throughout August it looked like we had almost no chestnut burrs in many previously productive trees. But many of these apparently barren trees started flowering from the last week of August continuing through October. Many late burrs developed, some to branch-breaking densities. In past years most of our late season burrs are empty. This year, surprisingly, many of the burrs filled out. With the extended warm weather we were still picking up chestnuts into November. I learned that the time from flower to mature nut can be as short as seven to eight weeks!"

**Charles NovoGradac
Lawrence, Kan.**

"Our 2007 chestnut harvest began on Sept. 19 with one pound of nuts and ended on Oct. 19 with four pounds of nuts. Between those dates we harvested by hand almost 1,000 pounds from 18 trees! The Easter weekend spring frost did not appear to hurt our trees as there was good pol-

ination on all trees. Burs were extremely thick on all the trees. We have no irrigation system and lack of rain was our main concern. However, late August storms provided enough moisture at a critical time to fill most burrs with average size or larger nuts. By harvest time, the tree branches were heavily weighted, often sagging to the ground. Fear of strong winds was the main concern after the rains. Mosquitoes were extremely thick during the harvest days with minor relief only using insect repellent.



The photo above shows the branch-breaking heavy bur development in September at Charlie NovoGradac's orchard. Even the small burrs developed and gave chestnuts at the end of October, first of November, albeit somewhat smaller than normal nuts. (Photo taken Sept 20.)

"Our earliest tree to drop nuts is the Layeroka which for the first time in nine years had mainly tiny nuts of under 7/8 inches. Lack of moisture at nut development time may have been the key to their small size as pollination was great with large clusters of small burrs on all the branches. Third year grafted Colossal showed positive potential as a good producer with heavy bur development and nuts over 1 1/8 inches. With the exception of the Colossal, all our trees are seedlings planted in 1988."

**Mike and Rose Powell
Palmyra, Mich.**

"Crop size in SE Iowa was generally down very slightly in 2007, compared to 2006, but with a few exceptions. In 2007 I had my largest harvest ever, up dramatically from the previous years. This was probably due to rains occurring late in 2006 following several years of localized but record-breaking drought (including less than 9 inches of rain for the whole calendar year of 2005!) My harvest increased by well over 1000% (yes, one thousand percent) from 2006.

"Another observation was that nut size was up dramatically on almost all trees (probably due to the reduced crop size coupled with otherwise good growing conditions). Trees that usually produced medium sized nuts produced large nuts this year, while normally large nut trees produced X-Large nuts. Over the past 7-8 years, X-Large nuts have consistently been 5 percent or less of the crop, here. This year, it was about 20 percent. I saw the largest chestnuts I

(cont. pg. 9)

Freeze Pt. 2 (cont. from page 8)

have ever seen, of any kind, anywhere. They came from a grower in Quincy, Ill. The largest ones were around 34 grams each, and the average was around 30 grams.”

Tom Wahl
Wapello, Iowa

Assessing Cultivars for Freeze Damage in Missouri

by Ken Hunt, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry

I have been looking over the yield data trying to figure out how to assess the chestnut cultivars in our Repository for damage caused by the Easter Weekend Freeze this past spring. At our location we had a 10-day period of 20° F above-average temperatures in late March and early April that enabled trees to start leafing out, then we had a 16-18° F temperatures on April 4 that taught any foolish tree a lesson. I think I have figured out a way to show how the cultivars ranked on this.

In 2005 we had a good year for yield with an overall crop of at least 4,000 pounds. In 2006 we had a pretty good nut crop of around 4,000 pounds. Since the trees were a year older, I would say 2006 was not as heavy of a cropping year as 2005. In 2007 we tallied 3,150 pounds of nuts, so the overall crop was down compared to 2005, and 2006. With this background in yield, I have gone through the yield data for each cultivar and tallied which cultivars had (1) - a higher yield this year compared to the two previous years, and (2) - cultivars that had mixed results in yield compared to the past two years, and (3) - had a down year in yield compared to both of the previous two years (See Table 1, pg. 11).

I think that this data is important in that we had about 2/3 of the cultivars showing enough dieback to affect nut yield. So, this data gives us some idea which cultivars that may not stay dormant in the spring as well as other cultivars. The cultivars that had dormant buds did not freeze with temperatures as low as 16 degrees Fahrenheit. Fruiting buds extend down last year's shoot so are not just at the terminal end. So, even though some terminal bud freezing may have occurred on some cultivars that had good yields, the “extra” fruiting buds down the shoot that tend to not break dormancy as quickly were enough to provide adequate flowering.

Cultivars in bold are on our “official” select cultivar list that show the most promise based on nut yield, nut size, nut quality, etc. We are emphasizing Chinese chestnuts, so hybrid trees (other than Sleeping Giant) have intentionally been left off the select list for now. Cultivars **Qing**, **Peach**, **Eaton**, **Sleeping Giant**, **Gideon** and **Auburn Homestead** are currently on our recommended list, while **Kohr**, **Perry**, **Hong Kong**, **Shing**, **Mossbarger** and **Payne** are on our watch list as possible recommended cultivars. Cultivars that have dropped off the select list in the past few years are **Willamette**, **Carolina**, **Byron** (Lindstrom #67), and **Amy**. **Willamette** and **Carolina** both have large quality nuts on a good year, but the tree limbs are “leggy” and are subject to breakage and can have small nuts due to over cropping in a given year. The “leggy” trait seems to make the canopy more open and lower in leaf area. **Amy** has not yielded well and hasn't made the cut for good nut size at our location. **Byron** has misshapen large nuts and I have seen some delayed grafting failure with this cultivar as well. **Auburn Super** has not been released to the public but may be an excellent potential cultivar, but this cultivar did suffer from the freeze and may be more adapted to more southern regions than Central Missouri.

Our main objective is to continue to add promising new seedling chestnut trees that experienced growers have sent us to test and to eliminate lower ranking cultivars under test as time goes on. Though this sounds like a cattle rancher slowly improving his cattle herd genetics, we do have the advantage of providing clones (scionwood) of our best individuals for immediate benefit to the growers.

I want to thank all of the experienced comments (and unselfish gifts of select clonal material) that we have received the past few years by fellow chestnut growers to help make this cultivar evaluation endeavor succeed. CGA

2008 Annual CGA Meeting to be in California

by Ray Young, CGA Secretary-Treasurer

Our 2008 conference and orchard tour will be held near Sacramento, Calif., Friday evening and all day Saturday, July 25-26, 2008.

Tentative plans include a tour of Weiss-McNair, an orchard equipment manufacturer, and a visit to the orchard of Paul and Sandy Harrison. You will definitely want to

hear about their very unique and sales operation. Their large crop is always presold by September.

In addition, there will be a series of presentations of interest to all growers. Watch the CGA Web site for further details – <http://www.wcga.net> CGA

Consumers becoming more familiar with chestnuts (cont. from page 3)

important attribute that influences respondents' decision to purchase chestnuts (18% reduction in the likelihood to purchase for every \$1 increase in price). Consumers are 1.31 times more likely to select organically certified chestnuts compared to conventional. The study also found evidence that females are more likely to select chestnuts certified to organic standards. All results support promotion focused on local production and quality to receive a premium price.

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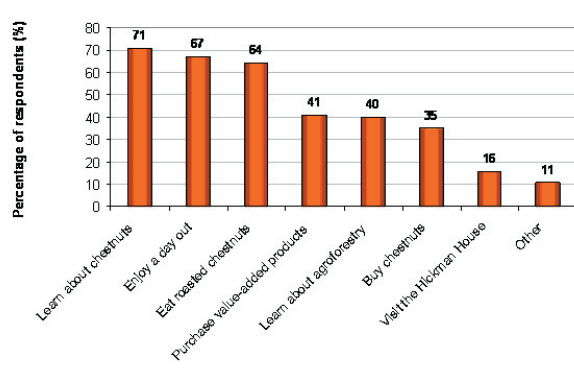


Fig. 3: Reasons to attend the 2007 Missouri Chestnut Roast.

‘American Chestnut’

The University of California Press has just published a book that might interest Chestnut Grower readers. “American Chestnut: The Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Perfect Tree” was written by freelance science journalist Susan Freinkel.

According to the Press’ Web site description of the book, “In American Chestnut, Susan Freinkel tells the dramatic story of the stubborn optimists who refused to let this cultural icon go. In a compelling weave of history, science, and personal observation, she relates their quest to save the tree through methods that ranged from classical plant breeding to cutting-edge gene technology. But the heart of her story is the cast of unconventional characters who have fought for the tree for a century, undeterred by setbacks or skeptics, and fueled by their dreams of restored forests and their powerful affinity for a fellow species.”

See <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10570.html> for more information on “American Chestnut” including table of contents, reviews and ordering details. CGA

Assessing cultivars (cont. from page 9)

Table 1. Effects of the Easter Weekend Freeze on 52 chestnut cultivars in 2007 established at New Franklin, Mo.

Cultivars that had a higher nut yield in 2007 compared to both 2005 and 2006:

Kohr	Perry	Gideon
Yolo Grande	Auburn Leader	Qing
Douglass #1A	Ford's Tall	Marsol
Miller 72-76	Plot 316 #149	Maraval
Precoce Migoule	Marigoule	Orrin

Cultivars that had a higher nut yield in 2007 than either 2005 or 2006 (but not both years):

Peach	Sleeping Giant
Hong Kong	Meiling
Ford's Sweet	Primato
Simpson	Bouche De Betizac
Colossal Seedling Pollinizer	

Cultivars that were lower in nut yield in 2007 compared to both 2005 and 2006:

Shing	Auburn Homestead	Eaton
Mossbarger	Belle Epine	Payne
Eaton River	Armstrong	Carolina
Auburn Super	Luvall's Monster	Revival
Willamette	Colossal	Crane
Lindstrom #43	Jersey Gem	Carr
Auburn Cropper	Miller 72-105	Paragon
Plot 316 #150	OKKwang	Bost
Basalta #3	Campbell NC-8	Amy
Dunstan Hybrid Selection		

Dues notices for the Chestnut Growers of America will soon be in your mailbox – keep an eye out!



***Make Plans Now
the 4th International
Chestnut Symposium
– September 2008,
Beijing, China***

On behalf of the 4th International Chestnut Symposium of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS), you are invited to participate in the 4th International Chestnut Symposium. The Symposium will be held Sept. 12-15, 2008, in Beijing.

Program Information: Interested presenters are welcome to submit papers on all aspects of chestnuts, including basic and applied research in the areas of: genetics and germplasm, physiology, production systems, plant and soil nutrition, pests and diseases, post-harvest, nut quality, health benefits and marketing.

Important Dates:

March 1, 2008	Author notifications, deadline for receipt of abstract
May 15, 2008	Manuscripts due for publication in <i>Acta Horticulture</i>
	Early registration ends (fee increase after this date)
July 15, 2008	Deadline to pre-conference tours

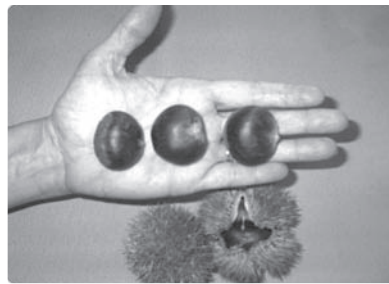
We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

– **Ling Qin** (convener)
Department of Plant Science and Technology
Beijing University of Agriculture

For more information about the symposium, please visit the International Society for Horticultural Sciences Web site at: <http://www.ishs.org/> or e-mail conference organizers at chestnut2008@126.com



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