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Calculating the Costs of Bur Management

By Art and Carl DeKleine, DeKleine Orchards

My brother Carl and I have been thinking about the cost of harvesting and processing chestnuts for some time now - a couple of years at least. A small crop, the corresponding smaller revenue, and the higher fixed cost for a larger operation prompted me to write a note for us to use in our evaluations. We have been thinking about how to share these insights with others, and The Chestnut Grower is the perfect way to do that. —Art DeKleine

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Chestnut harvesting continues to be a challenging exercise for chestnut growers. We agreed some years ago to concentrate on bur management, rather than focusing on chestnut harvesting. If we effectively manage the burs, we can easily manage chestnut harvesting.

To help the chestnut growing community, in this article, we will review standard harvesting tasks and then estimate the cost associated with each of the tasks.

Some folks grow and harvest relatively few chestnuts. Others plant many acres of chestnuts and focus on a reasonable return for their investment. The size of the business greatly affects the corresponding revenue and expense calculations.

Typically, harvesting every last chestnut can be time-consuming and expensive. The question is, when is enough enough - when does one stop? How much time is one willing to spend harvesting the last few nuts? Much of the analysis in this article is applicable to both small and large growers alike.

The Problem

The problem of harvesting and managing the burs is best explained by noting that the volume of nuts compared to the corresponding volume of the burs for those nuts has a ratio of about a 1 to 5 – a much higher volume of burs than nuts.

Making harvesting even more difficult is the fact that non-pollinized nuts (called “duds”) fall from the tree a week or two before the mature nuts drop – the empty nut burs following suit.

Another harvesting problem is that some burs drop with their nuts inside – which is likely to happen during hot weather, or other stressful periods. Our experience is that rain encourages burs to open and drop their nuts.

Most people like to harvest their nuts several times during the season on a 3-, 4-, or 5-day schedule. If the duds and the burs from the first pickings are not cleaned out, a big trash accumulation makes later pickings even more difficult.

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THE CHESTNUT GROWER

April 2018

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Annual Membership Dues

Single membership, \$35; Household membership, \$45; Associate membership, \$50. Members receive The Chestnut Grower quarterly. Emailed newsletters are included. Mailed newsletters are an additional \$5 per year. A \$5 discount applies if payment is postmarked or submitted through the website by Feb. 15. Foreign mailings may include a surcharge to cover the cost of additional postage.

Advertising Rates

Full page, camera ready	\$20.00
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Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	Mailed
Winter	Dec. 10	Jan. 1
Spring	Mar. 10	April 1
Summer	June 10	July 1
Fall	Sept. 10	Oct. 1

Editorial Opinion

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Message from CGA President Roger Blackwell, Chestnut Grower



Greetings, Chestnut Growers of America! Spring is here, along with all the joys of chestnut growing. This newsletter again includes some great articles authored by our members. Also, the agenda and registration information for the Annual Meeting is provided. If you have not yet renewed your

membership for 2018, now is the time.

In this issue, you'll find a few new articles about chestnuts. One article, by Carl and Art DeKleine, DeKleine Orchards, is about bur management. Their focus has been to effectively manage the burs, thereby making the harvesting of the chestnuts more easily managed. In another article, Bernie Hilgart, Washington Chestnut Company, describes planning and developing a commercial chestnut orchard within a twelve-year timeline. A third article by Bob Stehli, Wintergreen Tree Farm, tells the story of why he finally decided to take on the cost of installing a deer fence around his chestnut orchard. Our grower members should find all these articles very timely.

CGA's Annual Meeting will be in Gridley, California, Friday June 1 through Sunday June 3, 2018. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend – you're sure to find it educational, and it's a great way to meet and connect with other CGA members. Here is a brief overview of the plan for the meeting. On Friday, we will be having our meet-and-greet with refreshments for everyone and a tour of an orchard next door to Luke Wilson's place. On Saturday, many topics will be covered in presentations and tours. The Annual Chestnut Marketing Survey will be presented by Dr. Michael Gold. An update on the Chestnut Breeding Program by Greg Miller will be provided. We hope to have Dr. Jeanne Romero-Severson bring us up to date on the DNA Markers project. A couple of other topics may include Chestnut Pollen and allergies and the import of chestnuts into the West Coast Produce Terminals. On Saturday evening we plan to end the meeting at 4 pm and go next door to Sierra Nevada Brewery and take a tour of the brewery and then have a group dinner at the restaurant and taproom, which has amazing food too. On Sunday, plans are in place for Luke Wilson to demonstrate his chestnut operation, and we'll visit a couple of other orchards as well.

Finally, as you read this issue, please consider inviting other non-member chestnut grower friends you might know to attend the Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there in June!

Best Regards,

Roger P. Blackwell

Protecting Your Chestnut Orchard From Deer

by Bob Stehli, Wintergreen Tree Farm, Mantua, Ohio

Deer are one of the most destructive pests that we have in our chestnut orchards. They constantly eat the new leaves and twigs on the young trees, slowing their growth to a fraction of what it should be. In the late summer and fall, the bucks love to rub their antlers on the young trees, tearing off the branches and grafts and girdling the stems. To make matters worse, deer have a voracious appetite for chestnuts. They will consume a significant percentage of your nut crop if they can get away with it.

For many years, I thought about installing deer fence, but the price was so high that I always turned to some other alternative. I tried different repellent sprays; I tried hanging bars of soap in the trees; I tried human hair in mesh bags in the trees; I took little battery powered radios, tuned them into a talk station and set them under buckets to protect them from the weather. All these methods worked for a

while, but deer are smart, and they soon learn that the threat is not real.

Next, I got a kill permit from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and began killing them. I lost count of how many we killed, but I soon realized it was like trying to sweep out the tide. There were always more deer to step in for the ones I had killed. It also turned out that killing the deer was not very popular with the neighbors.

I was not going to let these animals get the upper hand. I decided to enlist more animals to help me fight them. Between the dog pound and some friends, I was able to pick up five or six miserable-looking coon hounds. I tried to find ones that had some scars on their faces, as this is a sign that they are serious about hunting.

I brought them back to the farm, fed them for a while, and turned them loose. This actually worked (kind of). These dogs ran



Deer can be one of the most destructive pests in a chestnut orchard.

deer day and night. The deer soon learned if they came within a thousand feet of my farm, they were likely to get a ten-mile run out of it.

These dogs were really doing the job for me. They ran off all the deer, then they began to turn their attention to other pests. They killed off all the rabbits, raccoons,

Story continues on page 7...

Mark Your Calendars!

**For the Chestnut Growers of America
2018 Annual Meeting at Luke Wilson's
Ranch in Gridley, California**

June 1-3, 2018

SHARE:

Catch up with fellow growers at social events, share tips and resources, and enjoy great food, including a tour of the Sierra Nevada Brewery.

LEARN:

Hear presentations from industry experts and tour processing facilities, orchards, and more.

PARTICIPATE:

Vote on CGA business and share your ideas to grow our organization.

Find complete program information and your registration form on page 9.

Renew Your CGA Membership

Your 2018 membership dues are now past due. Please fill out and return the membership renewal form included with this issue on page 10.

You have two options:

Renew Online

Download a fillable form from the CGA website at www.chestnutgrowers.org/2018_CGA_Membership_Application_fillable.pdf. If you receive the e-version of the newsletter, the form is also attached to that email. Complete the form and email it to Jack Kirk, CGA secretary/treasurer, at jackschestnuts@gmail.com. You can then pay your dues through the CGA website by visiting www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html. Please ensure you submit both your application and payment at the same time!

OR

Renew by Mail

Send a hard copy of the form with a check made payable to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. to Jack Kirk, 2300 Bryan Park Ave., Richmond, VA 23228.

Standard Harvest Tasks

Pre-harvest bur cleanup

DeKleine Orchards uses an estate rake or a Flory nut sweeper to windrow duds from under the trees to a “trash row” in the center between tree rows. Some years the “trash row” remains between the tree rows for the entire harvest season. If possible, we use a Weiss/McNair 936 Harvester to pick up the trash row and dump the burs outside the orchard. When the harvest begins, only recently dropped nuts and burs are under the trees.



Sweeping and picking the trash row is a fixed-cost job that does not depend on the number of burs and/or nuts under the tree.

Typically, one 18-tree row produces 1 bin (1 cubic yard) of burs. It takes one person 8 minutes to windrow an 18-tree row on both sides of the tree (about 4 mph). At a cost of \$12/hr., it costs \$1.60 to windrow an 18-tree row.

Typically, it takes three people 10 minutes to pick up the windrowed burs from the 18-tree row and dump the burs outside the orchard. At a cost of \$36/hr., it costs \$6 to pick up the windrowed burs and dump the burs outside the orchard. If we can harvest 50 lb. of nuts from each of the 18 trees (900 lb.), cleaning the windrow will add less than 1¢ per pound to the harvest cost.

Picking up chestnuts - harvest

Hand harvest

DeKleine Orchards has used the same three harvest employees for three years. We consider them to be very efficient. However, the size of the nut crop and the number of burs under the trees greatly affect their efficiency.

The advantage of hand harvest is that there are no burs mixed with the harvested nuts.

Fact: The more burs in the harvest area, the harder and hence the more costly the harvest.

Due to the 2017 hot dry per-season weather, some trees had many burs under the trees and very few nuts, while some trees had fewer burs and more nuts.

On the last day the three harvest employees were able to work, the employees were assigned in the morning to an un-harvested set of trees with many burs under the trees and very few nuts; in the afternoon they were assigned to an unharvested set of trees with fewer burs and more nuts. In the morning, the harvesters were instructed to kick open burs with visible nuts inside and to then pick up all visible nuts. In the afternoon, the harvesters were instructed to pick up visible nuts as fast as possible – leaving nuts still in the bur. The results were the following:

AM: 3.5 hours worked, 162 trees picked up, 454 lb. harvested. → 43.2 (lb./hour)/person & 2.8 lb./tree

PM: 4 hours worked, 63 trees picked up, 750 lb. harvested → 62 (lb./hour)/person & 11.9 lb./tree



We can tease out information about the cost of hand harvesting from these statistics. In particular, not finding 15 or more available nuts under every tree should be enough to discourage further hand harvesting.

Mechanical harvest

Using a machine, or machines, to harvest and process the chestnuts is a bit more involved. Typically, a harvester is used to pick up nuts and some burs, and then the nuts and burs are separated, either by the harvester or at a processing line at the house.

A harvester can be either purchased or rented. In either case, the analysis is



similar. Let's assume that a harvester can be purchased for \$20,000. One would expect to pay off the purchase price in 5 to 8 years. To pay off the harvester in 8 years, one needs to allocate a \$2,500 harvest expense each year. If the harvester helps reduce harvest cost by \$0.25 per pound, 10,000 lb. of nuts need to be harvested each year to pay for the machine and be competitive with hand harvesting.

If, on the other hand, a harvester and an operator can be rented for \$75 per hour, 33 hours (at a cost of \$2,475 - almost \$2,500) might do the job. Picking up 10,000 lb. of nuts in 33 hours will require the harvester to pick up 300 lb. per hour.

Note, $(300 \text{ lb./hr.} \times 33 \text{ hr.}) \times (\$0.25/\text{hr.}) = 9,900 \text{ lb.} \times (\$0.25/\text{lb.}) = \$2,475$

DeKleine Orchards has a target hand-harvest target rate of 40 lb./hr., but it is reasonable to assume a 50 lb./hr. rate in a good year. It will take 6 employees working together to stay competitive with the rented harvester.

Alternately, if a harvester and operator can be rented for \$75 per hour for one 6-hour day and pick up 300 lb. per hour, 1,800 lb. of nuts can be harvested for somewhere between \$450 and \$600 (25¢ and 30¢ per lb.) in one day.

U-pick

Some folk think that U-pick offers an inexpensive harvesting opportunity.

U-pick requires market maintenance and advertising cost.

In addition, it requires employee support during the U-pick days. We found that 4 or 5 people are needed the day of harvest, one to “meet, greet, and control parking,” one on the cash register, two in the orchard to protect the trees and keep customers honest, and one to manage.

If one assumes that the 5 employees are paid \$15 per hour for a 9-hour day, a harvest cost of \$675 is incurred. To be competitive with a commercial harvest incurring a 50¢/lb. harvesting cost, at least 1,350 lb. of chestnuts need to be sold.



Cleaning and processing the nuts

When harvested nuts are brought in from the field, some processing is typically required – separating nuts from burs, taking out stones, culling out defective nuts, and rinsing with food bleach. Separating nuts and burs is the most difficult task, as the burs form a Velcro-ed mass in the transport bin. Because fresh nuts sink and burs float, an air separator and wash tank are the most effective separating tools. However, keeping large burs out of the processing line and limiting the amount of bur fragments passing through the processing line greatly increases the efficiency of the processing line.

This past summer we received bins of hand-harvested nuts with no large burs and almost no bur fragments (about 1,000 lb.). It took on average 20 minutes to process a 1,000 lb. bin. We also received several bins with very few nuts (50 lb. estimated), some large burs, and a lot of bur fragments. On average it took 72 minutes (1.2 hr.) to process the bins with few nuts to show for our efforts.

The processing line takes three people to manage the work. If each person is paid \$12 per hour, the labor cost for processing

the hand-harvested nuts was about \$12 per 1,000 lb. (about 1.2¢ per lb.). The labor cost for processing the 50 lb. of machine-harvested nuts was about \$43.20 per 50 lb. (about 86.4¢ per lb.).

Take-away: Don't send bins of nuts to the processing line with more than 50% bur fragments and trash. Best to shoot for less than 25%.

Closing Remarks

1. Chestnut harvest and processing costs can quickly exceed one's estimate. For example,

Pre-harvest bur cleanup: 1¢/lb.
Harvest pickup cost: 29¢/lb.
Processing: 9¢/lb.
Cold storage rental: 2¢/lb.
Travel to and from Coop: 2¢/lb.
TOTAL: 43¢/lb.

The estimates derived depend a lot on the year, the size and condition of the chestnuts, the efficiency of the employees, and the equipment available.

2. To separate and isolate easily dislodged nuts from their burs, some growers have tried to roll the nuts and burs under a fence-like mesh, and then hand blow the burs away from the nuts. The advantage of



this method is leaving the exposed nuts in a narrow strip between tree rows. Driving over exposed nuts with heavy equipment damages the nuts and adds additional harvest cost and time – a disadvantage.

3. The idea of using a vacuum to pick up nuts keeps coming up for discussion. The power needed to generate enough vacuum to pick up nuts and burs is enormous, and the pickup rate is relatively slow. 🍅

The appendices to this article can be found with the resources on the members-only page of the CGA website under “Harvesting and Processing.” Appendix A - DeKleine Orchards hand-harvest protocol, Appendix B - Hand-harvest rate analysis, Appendix C - Processing line rate analysis.

Fact: The more burs in the bins of harvested nuts, the more expensive the processing costs.



The 12 Years to Commercial Chestnut Orchard Production

By Bernie Hilgart, Washington Chestnut Company, Everson, Washington

When we first started our chestnut orchard many years ago, we heard it was going to take 12 years to establish a chestnut orchard and bring the orchard to commercial production. What are you going to need to do during those 12 years to get there in that time frame?

First, defining some terms. What do we mean by commercial chestnut production? Commercial chestnut production can be loosely defined as producing high quality fresh chestnuts in sufficient quantities to fulfill the needs of the targeted market. Your targeted market should be well-defined, such as two grocery stores, or delivering 2000 or more pounds to a co-op.

The chestnut quality you are aiming for should also be well defined. Route 9 Co-op in Ohio has developed an excellent set of chestnut quality best practices to make sure the chestnuts they deliver to market are of consistent quality. Nut quality characteristics have the following components:

1. Nut size greater than x
2. No pellicle intrusion into the kernel
3. No splits on the shell
4. Only one kernel present inside the nut shell (see Figure 1)
5. Stores for many weeks without degradation of the taste, texture, color of the kernel

Second, we're starting off with some assumptions:

- You already have the land to start the chestnut orchard
- There is water available to water the chestnut trees in the orchard
- You keep accurate notes of the performance of the trees and what you did each month

The amount of inputs needed to establish, grow, and maintain a commercial chestnut orchard after these baseline assumptions are met change from year to year. In the beginning, the inputs are high with the costs of preparing the orchard area, installing irrigation and fencing, purchasing trees, and soil amendments. Then for the next 5 years, the inputs are low with small annual increases as the trees grow larger.

Here is a rundown of the inputs needed for each year:

Year	Inputs Needed	Tips and Milestones
Year 1	Make decision to establish a chestnut orchard, order grafted trees from a nursery, submit soil samples to an ag lab for analysis	
Year 2	Prepare the soil, amend the soil with nutrients based on lab analysis, plant grass, install irrigation system	
Year 3	Plant trees, remove suckers, mow grass	
Year 4	Soil samples and leaf analysis, amend soil with nutrients, remove suckers, prune lowest branches, mow grass	Trees should have grown at least 2 feet by the start of the growing season. At the end of the growing season the trees should be at least 8 feet tall.
Year 5	Soil samples and leaf analysis, amend soil with nutrients, remove suckers, prune lowest branches, mow grass, possibly harvest your first chestnuts, order replacement trees if any of the trees have died	If more than 10 percent of the original trees have died or most have not attained 8 feet tall, consider seeking help from an expert in establishing a chestnut orchard (Figure 3).
Year 6	Soil samples and leaf analysis, amend soil with nutrients, remove suckers, prune lowest branches, mow grass, possibly harvest chestnuts	Trees should be growing 4 to 6 feet a year for years 6 through 8. Burrs should have developed, and a few nuts should be falling if grafted trees were planted. Seedlings can take a few more years yet to produce burrs and nuts (Figure 2).
Year 7	Soil samples and leaf analysis, amend soil with nutrients, remove suckers, prune lowest branches, mow grass, harvest chestnuts, order replacement trees if any have died	Observe the nut quality, if there are issues as defined in your nut quality best practices, seek out an expert for help with managing the soil nutrients and moisture levels.
Year 8	Soil samples and leaf analysis, amend soil with nutrients, remove suckers, prune lowest branches, mow grass, harvest chestnuts, order replacement trees if any have died	Observe the nut quality, and test the quality of the nuts according your nut quality best practices. Also, start recording total chestnut harvest from the trees to establish a baseline for evaluating production results in future years.
Years 9–12	Fine tune soil nutrients and refine orchard management practices until target nut quality and commercial production is reached	Using the nut production baseline established in year 8, evaluate the production level of the orchard. Consider using percentage of canopy coverage of the area of the orchard to the production level evaluation.



Figure 1. The kernel on the left has two kernels, and the kernel on the right is a single kernel.



Figure 2. Evaluate the number of female flower developing during the bloom.

Really, 12 years? Well, maybe a few less if your orchard is near another commercial chestnut orchard that you can glean input requirements and orchard management practices from. But even with those shortcuts, establishing a chestnut orchard takes at least 8 years. Why 8 years? The first 6 years will be focused on growing the chestnut tree canopy and not nut production. The orchard will need at least 2 more years to convert from a canopy growth focus to nut production focus.

If your goal is to deliver to the highest standard for chestnuts, note-taking and soil analysis, and leaf/tissue analysis are the key components. These three things will be required to achieve excellence in managing the orchard and chestnut production. Notes help when questions arise such as “What happened? What did we do to get to this point?” The analysis of the soils and tissues are the window into what is happening in the biosphere of the orchard and the physiological conditions of the chestnut trees.

Conclusion

Even if you try to get into the fast lane to get a chestnut orchard into commercial production, your orchard will still require at least 8 years to get to commercial quantities, but your nut quality will take an additional 3 to 4 years to fine-tune. You only get one chance a year, harvest time, to evaluate the nut quality and production of the orchard. The soil and leaf analysis are the core of your success in establishing a chestnut orchard delivering high quality consistent commercial nut production. 🍅



Figure 3. Trees with degrading health needed to be given special attention.

DEER FENCE continued from page 3...

woodchucks, skunks, opossums and even some squirrels. My dogs began to multiply at an alarming rate and to range further.

Of course, my kids fell in love with all the puppies, and they wanted to keep all 16 of them. My wife started taking all of them to the vet and tried to make pets out of them. She had an especially bad reaction when I tried taking two of the older dogs to the pound to trade them in for some younger ones. The dog warden started charging me \$100 per dog every time one of my neighbors found one that was “lost”. The neighbors’ cats all started to disappear. Finally, one day when I went to bail out one of my faithful dogs from the dog warden, he informed me that I had been moved to the “chronic offender” list, and that I was looking at possible jail time.

I am not sure what all that episode cost me, but somewhere along the way I decided that maybe deer fence wasn’t too expensive. Where I have installed deer fence around an existing chestnut orchard, I have seen a 50-70% return on my investment per year. Last fall, a farmer who rents some land inside one of my fences told me that he was getting 20 bushels more soybeans per acre inside my fence than anywhere else he had harvested. To be fair, I have to add that we trap all the woodchucks inside our fenced areas.

I am enough of a believer now that I would not consider planting a chestnut orchard without installing a deer fence first. Do not waste your money on anything less than 8-foot woven galvanized wire fence. I recommend galvanized 20/96/6, 12½ gauge lock weave type. This fence will run you about \$400 per 330-foot roll. I recommend using southern yellow pine treated 12-foot posts (4-inch diameter minimum at smaller end). Treated radiata pine is excellent, if available. Lodgepole pine runs a distant second. Avoid red pine.

The posts should be set every 25 feet. If you can drive them, you will get the best results. Fence corners should be double braced, and 6-inch minimum diameter posts should be used for corner and brace posts. Put in 8-foot high galvanized gate, and remember they have to be big enough to accommodate the largest equipment that may have to enter the area. Do not skimp on the gates. It can be very annoying to have to walk half a mile to get



CGA members checking out the deer fence installation at the 2017 annual meeting in Ohio.

at something three feet away on the other side of your fence.

There are some great tutorials on fence building available through Kencove Farm Fence Supplies web site (www.kencove.com).

If you hire someone to install the fence, be sure they have a post pounder that can handle a 12-foot post.

If you clearly mark the corners, clear away the brush, trees, and rocks from the fence line, and lay out the posts and fence material, you can save yourself a lot of money. Just pay the contractor to do what you can’t do yourself.

One downside of deer fence besides limiting access around your farm is that some pests like woodchucks, raccoons, rabbits, voles, and chipmunks will learn that they are safe inside your fence. One year we trapped over 50 woodchucks, raccoons, and opossum in our fenced 25-acre chestnut orchard. Each one of these animals is quite capable of eating or ruining 50 pounds of nuts during a season. For me that would have been 2500 lbs. of nuts at \$3.50 per pound or \$8,750. You *will* have to trap if you do not leave some places where coyotes, foxes, cats, and dogs can get in. Sometimes, just leaving some narrow gaps between your gates will afford them access while still keeping the deer out. You can also leave some low spots under your fence or remove some wires to make small access ways for the predators.

One important side benefit of deer fence that I didn’t consider initially is its effectiveness at excluding two-legged pests and four-wheelers. Remember to close and lock your gates. 🍅

A previous version of this article originally appeared in The Nutshell, a quarterly publication of the NNGA.

Green Beans in Pomegranate Vinaigrette with Chestnuts

This recipe comes from The Local Palate Test Kitchen and can be found at thelocalpalate.com/recipes/green-beans-in-pomegranate-vinaigrette-with-chestnuts

INGREDIENTS

3 cups fresh green beans
1 pomegranate, deseeded
¾ cup chestnuts, chopped
1 orange, zested and juiced
1 shallot, diced
1-2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
2 teaspoons whole-grain mustard
½-¾ cup olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

PREPARATION

Blanch green beans (place in a pot of boiling water for 1-2 minutes and then cool immediately in a bowl of ice water) and set aside. Toss beans in a large bowl with the pomegranate seeds (to taste), chestnuts, and orange zest. In a separate small bowl, add 2 tablespoons of fresh orange juice, diced shallot, red wine vinegar, and whole-grain mustard. Whisk all ingredients together. Continue whisking while slowly adding the olive oil until mixture is emulsified. Add more olive oil to taste, until acidity is balanced. Toss vinaigrette with bean mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste. Dish can be served warm or cold.

Yields: 6 servings

2018 Member Directory

A 2018 Member Directory was sent to all CGA members via email. Please check your listing for accuracy. Send any corrections to Jack Kirk, Secretary/Treasurer, at jackschestnuts@gmail.com. If you would like to receive a printed version of the directory, please send a request to Rita Belair at chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com

2018-2019 Slate of Officers:

President: Roger Blackwell

Vice President: Derek Waltchack

Secretary/Treasurer: Jack Kirk

Directors: Sandy Bole, Greg Miller, Tom Wahl, Luke Wilson

According to the bylaws, the slate shall be considered to have been elected unanimously if no written petitions are received. These directors and officers will take over at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

For Sale / Seeking

CGA members can post equipment or other items they want to buy or have for sale, free. Send your submissions to chestnutgrowersofamerica@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Scion wood of Bergantz chestnut. Exchange possible. Contact: Davor Juretic, juretic.davor@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: Comm Chestnut Orchard + Home. N. Calif. Klamath River frontage. Appx. 800 Trees Colossal/Nevada. Trees are 20+ years old. Modern home 3+2; appx 2000 Sq. Ft. Off Grid - Solar Power; 55 Acres Total. Viewable on Google Earth. Website: rockybarchestnuts.com. Link to Flickr for additional photos. Seller carry; \$595,000. Email: Dhenn@dantel.com; Tel: (352) 633-6185.

FOR SALE: Chestnut Orchard, 71 Dunstan hybrid trees planted in 1994 on 1.1 lake front acres - beautiful home site, located in Dyer County, Tennessee. For additional information call Joe Welborn (901) 828-7957.

FOR SALE: See photos at right. (1) Kubota 35hp 4x4 with loader. Has bucket and forks, turf tires, and shows approximately 860hrs on meter. (2) Facma trailed harvester in great shape. Extra hoses for one or two-person setup. (3) Flory orchard sweeper. New rubber fingers on head. Machine good and straight. Will sell as a package or separate. Contact Devon Miligan at (706) 681-1542.



You Don't Want to Miss It!

The Chestnut Growers of America 2018 Annual Meeting

June 1-3, 2018 · Gridley, California

Program

Friday, June 1	5:00-9:00 pm	Welcome Reception at Wil-ker-son Ranch Tour of chestnut packing facility	661 E. Evans Reimer Rd. Gridley, CA 95948
	6:30 pm	<i>Optional tour of large walnut hulling/processing facility w/ Justin Leishman of Sundial Farms</i>	
Saturday, June 2	7:30 am	Meet at Italian Guy Catering & Event Center	25 Bellarmine Ct. Chico, CA 95928
	8:00 am	Presenter: Luke Wilson <i>Welcome & Introduction</i>	
	8:30 am	Presenter: Mike Gold <i>Annual Marketing Survey</i>	
	9:30 am	Speaker TBA	
	10:30 am	Travel to Worm Farm	9033 Esquon Rd. Durham, CA 95938
	12:00-12:15 pm	Return to Italian Guy for catered lunch & Silent Auction	
	1:00 pm	Presenter: Nichole Johansson, Lodestar Farm Local Marketing presentation- Sierra del Oro Farm trail	
	2:00 pm	Presenter: Greg Miller - Breeding Program Update	
	3:00 pm	Presenter: USDA representative - Sizes and Standards	
	4:00 pm	Speaker TBA	
	4:50 pm	Travel to Sierra Nevada Brewery for tour & dinner	1075 E. 20 th St. Chico, CA 95928
Sunday, June 3	8:00 am	Board of Directors meeting @ Courtyard Marriot Hotel	2481 Carmichael Dr. Chico, CA 95928
	10:00 am	Optional tours of chestnut farms - Wil-ker-son Ranch, Harrison's Chestnut Farm, Silva Farms	

Questions: Email Luke Wilson at lucasmxwellwilson@yahoo.com

Flights: **Sacramento**-1 hr. drive to Wil-ker-son Ranch. **San Francisco**-a bit farther but might be a bit more economical. 2.5 hr. drive depending on traffic. If you fly in between 3-6 pm, plan on it taking 4+ hours to get to Wil-ker-son Ranch

Hotel: **Courtyard Marriot**, 2481 Carmichael Dr., Chico, CA, **530-894-6699**. They are holding a block of rooms for CGA for \$134/night. There are many hotels around the Chico area, some may be a bit more economical, but the Courtyard is right around the corner from where we are having our meeting.

Return this form with your check made payable to Chestnut Growers of America, Inc. to Jack Kirk, 2300 Bryan Park Ave, Richmond, VA 23228. Or download an e-version of this form from the CGA website and email to Jack at jackschestnuts@gmail.com, then pay registration fees online at www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html. Registrations need to be received by **Friday, May 18**. Registration fee includes Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday lunch, conference facilities, and Sierra Nevada Brewery tour. Dinner at Sierra Nevada will be paid individually.

Name _____ Member _____ Non-Member _____

Name _____ Member _____ Non-Member _____

Name _____ Member _____ Non-Member _____

_____ Number of members @ \$65.00 each = \$ _____

_____ Number of non-members @ \$75.00 each = \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

I plan on donating something for the Silent Auction to be held on Saturday _____ YES _____ NO _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____



2018 Membership Application/Renewal Form

Chestnut Growers of America, Inc.

Please complete application and **EITHER** mail to: Chestnut Growers of America, Inc., Attn: Jack Kirk, 2300 Bryan Park Avenue, Richmond, VA 23228; **OR** email (scanned copy or fillable PDF, available for download at www.chestnutgrowers.org/resources.html) to: jackschestnuts@gmail.com.

For dues payment, **EITHER** mail check to Jack Kirk at Richmond address; **OR** submit your dues online via PayPal at www.chestnutgrowers.org/paydues.html. Please ensure that you have submitted both your application and dues.

A Farm/Business/Organization Name:

B First Name

Last Name

First Name

Last Name

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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(Individual/First Household Member)

(Second Household Member)

____ **New Member Application**

(please complete sections C-K below)

____ **Renewal** (please complete sections I-K below)

____ No updates to lines C-H below. Please use 2017 information.

____ My information has changed. I have provided updates below.

C Address

D City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E Phone

Fax

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

F Email

Website

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------

G Acreage in Chestnuts

of Trees

Year First Planted

2017 Production (lbs.)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H Cultivars Grown

I Please send newsletters in the following format (\$5.00/year for print to cover cost of printing and postage):

____ Email Only

____ Print Only

____ Both Email and Print

J Listing on the CGA website grower directory

____ Free Listing

____ Paid Listing

____ Please do not list my information on the website.

K Membership Dues

____ Household Membership

\$45.00

____ Individual Membership

\$35.00

____ Associate Membership

\$50.00

____ Print Format Newsletters (see **I** above)

\$5.00

____ Paid Listing on CGA Website (see **J** above)

\$25.00

Total Dues for 2018:

Washington Chestnut Company

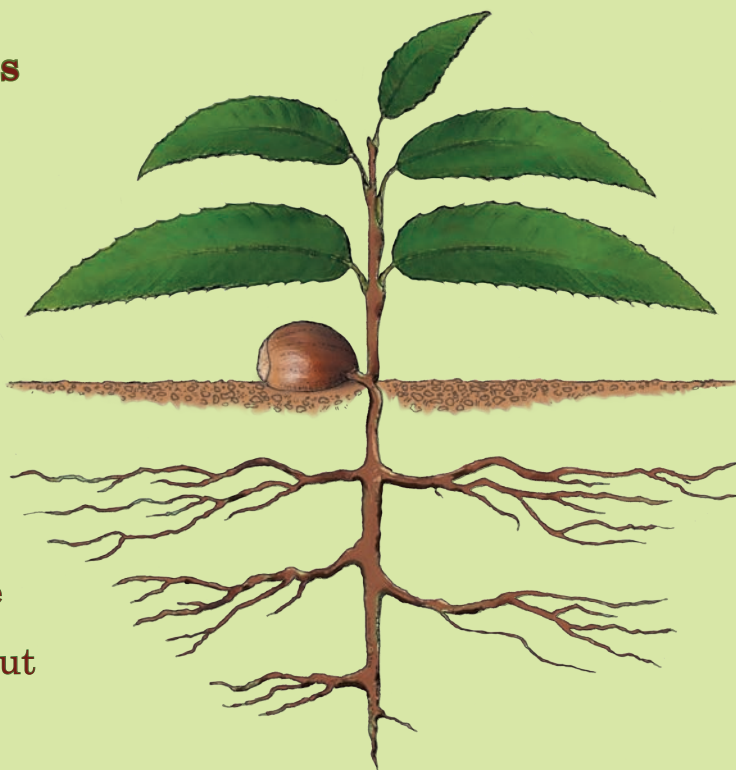


Quality Chestnut Trees from a Reliable Source!

Washington Chestnut Company has become an industry leader in the propagation of chestnut trees. The chestnut trees we offer are grown in the Pacific Northwest, free of exposure to chestnut blight and gall wasps.

Available Cultivars

Colossal
Bouche de Betizac
Prococe Migoule
Maraval
Marsol
Marigoule
Marrisard
Bisalta #2
Bisalta #3
Belle Epine
Gillet
Szego
Regis Montis
Regina Montis
Marrone di Comballe
Marrone di Marradi
Pure American Chestnut
Bergantz
...and more!



Our web site has full descriptions of each cultivar and lots of help with growing chestnut trees.

www.WashingtonChestnut.com

Washington Chestnut Company

6160 Everson Goshen Rd., Everson, WA 98247

Phone (360) 966-7158



Chestnut Growers of America
16 Pond Road
Deering, NH 03244

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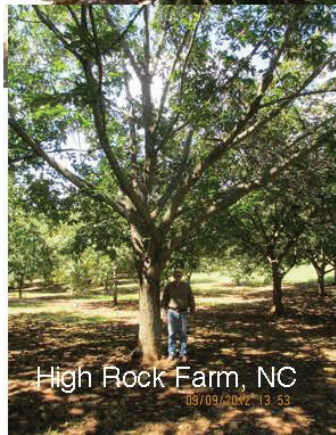
email: chestnuthilltreefarm@gmail.com



Wilson Orchards, VA



Delmarvelous Orchards, DE



High Rock Farm, NC
09/09/2017 13:53



Chestnut Ridge of Pike County, IL