

FRUIT & NUT TREES OF MAXWELL ARBORETUM

Latin Name	<i>Castanea dentata</i>		
Common Name	American Chestnut		
Family	Fagaceae		
HeightxWidth	to 100'	Harvest time	Aug.-Sept.
Bloom time and color	May/catkins	Fruit color	
Description	<p>leaves: alternate, oblong to lanceolate, sharply serrate, smooth, 5-8"</p> <p>twigs: hairless, brown, 1/4" buds with 2-3 scales, scars are semicircular</p> <p>In the wild originally a large tree; now only saplings which get the chestnut blight at an early age and die.</p>		
Fruit or Nut Use	<p>Extensive wildlife use: "birds to bears, squirrels to deer."</p> <p>Livestock feed, esp. hogs.</p> <p>Important cash crop. Used for roasting, stuffing, ground for flour for baking.</p> <p>High in protein, low in fat.</p>		
Notes	Chestnut blight fungus (<i>Cryphonectria parasitica</i>) introduced in 1904--probably from nursery stock brought in from Japan-- decimated the population within 50 years. Chestnuts were once the dominant species of much of the Eastern forests.		



©Emily Levine



©Emily Levine



©Emily Levine



©Emily Levine

FRUIT & NUT TREES OF MAXWELL ARBORETUM

Latin Name	<i>Castanea mollissima</i>		
Common Name	Chinese Chestnut		
Family	Fagaceae		
HeightxWidth	50-50'	Harvest time	Sept.-Oct.
Bloom time and color	June/catkins	Fruit color	



©Emily Levine

Description Compared to American: American leaves narrower, longer more arching teeth; Chinese hair on lower surface and petiole. Chinese nuts 1-11/4", American 1/2-1" diameter. Chinese twigs gray brown with fuzz, American are brown and hairless. Bark of Chinese is more gray. Chinese more spreading in form generally. Both have shiny brown nuts in spiny burs.

Fruit or Nut Use same as for American Chestnut

Notes Blight resistant. Nuts said to be not as sweet as American Chestnut.



American Chestnut Foundation



© Emily Levine



American Chestnut Foundation

FRUIT & NUT TREES OF MAXWELL ARBORETUM

Latin Name	<i>Castanea ozarkensis</i>					
Common Name	Ozark Chinquapin, Ozark Chestnut					
Family	Fagaceae					
HeightxWidth	25-30+x20'	Harvest time	Sept.			
Bloom time and color	May-June/catkin	Fruit color				
Description	<p>decimated by Chestnut Blight leaves: alternate, simple, toothed, narrowly oblong or elliptic, 5-8" x 1.5-3", bristles at tips of leaf veins, yellow-green upper, pale beneath fruit: spiny, round, .5" bur surrounding single brown nut</p>					
Fruit or Nut Use	nut: raw or cooked					
Notes	<p>"The Ozark Chinquapin nuts were delicious and we waited for them to fall like you would wait on a crop of corn to ripen,...they were that important. Up on the hilltop the nuts were so plentiful that we scooped them up with flat blade shovels and loaded them into the wagons to be used as livestock feed, to eat for ourselves, and to sell. Deer, bears, turkeys, squirrels, and a variety of other wildlife fattened up on the sweet crop of nuts that fell every year. But, starting in the 1950's and 60's all of the trees started dying off. Now they are all gone and no one has heard of them." --Harold. 85</p>					
						
Missouri State University Herbarium						
						
						
<p>©Emily Levine</p>						
<p>USDA Mary Daisy Arnold</p>						