



THE
AMERICAN
CHESTNUT
FOUNDATION®

TACF® FAQ's

FAQ: RC

V1, 2009

Restoration Chestnuts:

TACF Member Benefits and Policies

What are the seeds? Are they blight resistant?

These seeds/seedlings are referred to by our scientists as B₃F₃. We now call these our Restoration chestnuts and these seeds/seedlings are the result of over 25 years of back-cross breeding. They have the potential to be blight resistant, but there is no guarantee. And that's exactly why we need our members and partners to help test and evaluate these seed/seedlings — to see if they have enough blight-resistance and American growth characteristics to survive in the wild.

Does TACF sell the Restoration chestnuts to the public?

No, TACF does not sell the Restoration chestnuts. Seeds/seedlings are a TACF member benefit. There is no cost for the seed/seedlings; TACF only charges \$50 to cover shipping and handling.

How will I know if I am eligible to receive seeds?

TACF will inform qualified members of their eligibility.

Why do I have to sign a Germplasm Agreement?

The Germplasm Agreement prohibits the sale or transfer of pollen or nuts from these trees to ensure they are not put into commercial production. This is critical to allow TACF, our members, and partners to continue with our research and evaluation. The Germplasm Agreement is a standard agreement used by many universities that provide plants for testing and evaluation. The Restoration chestnuts offered to our members are available for testing and evaluation only and we do not yet know what level of blight resistance or American growth characteristics these trees will have.

I received a letter offering me seed because I have been a long-term member. The letter said I could receive additional seed if I was interested in becoming a Sponsor member. Do I need to pay the shipping and handling charge twice (\$50 + \$50)?

No, you only have to pay the \$50 shipping and handling, as long as the seeds/seedlings are going to the same location.

The letter I received from TACF offered seed but not seedlings. Can I get seedlings instead of seed?

No, at this time only seeds are available to Sponsor members. In the future, as seed production increases, TACF will be able to offer seedlings to more of our members.

When will I receive my seeds?

TACF will ship your seeds between March 8-15, 2010. You will need to either plant the seeds (outside or in pots) or keep them in cold storage (~34°F) until an appropriate planting time for your area. It is important to plan ahead so that you are ready to care for your seeds. Chestnut seeds are perishable, and proper handling will help ensure success.

Why is shipping \$50?

Shipping and handling costs cover all expenses necessary to harvest, process and ship seed, as well as the administrative costs required to develop and manage our seed distribution program. As seed production increases over time, we anticipate that shipping and handling costs will decline.

I am interested in a Life Sponsor membership. What about money I donated in the past? Are these previous donations counted toward my Life Sponsor membership?

All donations through October 2009 count towards your Life Sponsor membership. Starting November 1st, 2009, only donations greater than or equal to \$300 (annually) count towards the Life Sponsor level.

I have already donated well over \$10,000! Do I automatically become a Life Sponsor?

Yes, you automatically become a Life Sponsor and TACF will notify you of this great accomplishment.

Do I only have five years to become a Life Sponsor?

No. All memberships or donations greater than \$300 continue to add up until you reach the Life Sponsor level. Members that commit to a Life Sponsor level and pay the \$2,000 annual fee can immediately take advantage of the Life Sponsor benefits. However, if the donor decides to cancel their membership, TACF cannot refund the donor any past payments received.

Are corporations eligible for Life Sponsor Memberships?

No, corporations and businesses are recognized through our corporate giving program which is currently under development.

How will this new membership program affect my current membership, if I do not wish to change it?

This new program will not affect your current membership. TACF recognizes the importance of all of our members, whether they are a \$15 student member or a million dollar donor. We value *every* member!

Are there different incentives annually for the Life Sponsor and Annual Sponsor members?

Yes. Life Sponsor members receive additional incentives including access to more seeds/seedlings for testing and evaluation, invitations to special events, and special recognition. Reaching the Life Sponsor membership level is a major achievement.

If I am offered seeds/seedlings and do not wish to receive them, can I donate them to another person or my TACF chapter?

Yes, you can provide your seed to anyone you wish, but the individual that receives the seed must provide a signed germplasm agreement before TACF can ship the seed. In addition, the recipient must be or become a TACF member. You, or the individual that receives the seed, can pay the shipping and handling charge. If you donate to your chapter, you do not have to pay the shipping and handling fee. Just advise us that you want your seed to go to your local TACF chapter.

How do I help TACF evaluate the Restoration chestnuts?

The Recipient Agreement you will receive with your Restoration chestnuts requests the following measures: height at year one, three, five, ten and every five years thereafter; and diameter, measured at four feet, six inches (DBH), at year five, ten and every five years thereafter. We will send you a reporting form to assist in the submission of this important information. If you have any questions, please contact our office for clarification.