



TACF® FAQ's

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 seeds/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 for our long-term members and sponsors.

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.

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, we request that the recipient is a member or plans to become a member of TACF. If you decide to donate your seed to a chapter, please advise us which chapter to send your seed.

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 within the first two weeks of March. 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.

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?

Life Sponsor membership begins at the \$10,000 level. 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 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 pledge 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 pledge 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 evaluation, invitations to special events and special recognition. Reaching the Life Sponsor membership level is a major achievement.

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 4 feet, 6 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 The American Chestnut Foundation at (828) 281-0047 or email us at chestnut@acf.org.