



Summary of the Germplasm Agreement

The mission of the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is the restoration of the American chestnut to its historic range. To accomplish this goal, TACF has used a back-cross breeding program to incorporate the blight-resistant genes from the Chinese chestnut into the American chestnut. Our current **Restoration Chestnut** trees are comprised of approximately 94% American genes.

TACF is now testing and evaluating our Restoration Chestnut trees for blight resistance and their ability to grow like an American chestnut. However, we anticipate this testing and evaluation process will take many years to adequately determine if these trees are fit for widespread distribution. You, as a TACF cooperator, are part of a unique and historic research program.

The **Germplasm Agreement** is a standard agreement used by many universities when someone is testing plantings such as TACF's Restoration Chestnuts. In fact, the agreement is very similar to agreements used by the University of Wisconsin, Iowa State University and several other universities that are involved in agricultural and forestry research.

This agreement in no way dictates any control over your property or does the agreement keep you from eventually harvesting your trees for lumber.

Since these trees are unproven, it is critical that test plantings or the subsequent seeds produced by your trees not be planted without TACF knowing the location of the plantings. Otherwise we can't evaluate the progress of the plantings. In addition, these seedlings or the seeds that are eventually produced by your tree are not ready for commercial production or for sale. This restriction is critical to protecting our long-term breeding efforts. Currently, the trees you are planting are still "owned" by TACF until we have adequate scientific information to justify the eventual release of the trees to you.

This agreement prohibits the distribution of any pollen or eventual seeds your trees produce to another person without consent from TACF. **If you would like to provide seed produced by your tree to another individual, simply submit a request to TACF.** The individual receiving the material must sign a separate Germplasm Agreement.

TACF provides no guarantee to blight resistance of the materials provided to you or that the trees will have sufficient American growth character.

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