

Colossal Chestnut

Castanea spp.

These beautiful, modest sized, broad-spreading nut trees are prized for their showy cascades of yellow catkins in June which are followed by sweet nuts. A cross between Asian and European Chestnut strains, Colossal Chestnut is reportedly resistant to chestnut blight. My experience is that Colossal Chestnut is a challenge to train straight and tall. The trunk naturally will arch and one of the scaffold branches will take over apical dominance. Without pruning, the form is very asymmetrical.



Identification

Leaves

Deciduous, alternate, simple, similar to American Chestnut but thicker, glossier, and shorter.



Flower/Fruit

Monoecious, but self infertile. Yellow catkins appear in June. Chestnut brown nuts are borne 2-3 to a spiny bur. Nuts are 1/2-1 1/2 inch diameter.



Bark/Wood

Form

Colossal Chestnut requires pruning to maintain straight trunk. Will fork and/or bend. Low branched and broad spreading.



Uses

The Colossal Chestnut hybrid was specifically developed to retain the sweet, edible nuts of the American Chestnut while establishing a blight resistant tree.

Ethnobotany

Native Distribution

Establishment

Requires planting of at least two for cross fertilization in order to produce nuts.

Growing Conditions and Culture

Mature Size 25'Hx25'Wx2'dbh
 USDA Zone 4-9
 Light Requirements Full Sun

Soils Well Drained
 Drought Tolerant? No
 Inundation Tolerant? No

Pests/Damaging Agents

Puportedly pest resistant.

Similar Species

Propagation

Sprouts readily from seed.

Source(s)

Transplants from Northwoods Nursery, Molalla, OR.