

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CORNING, NEW YORK

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'COPPER' CHINQUAPIN

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture announces the naming and release of 'Copper' Chinquapin (*Castanea pumila* (L.) P. Mill.). 'Copper' chinquapin has been assigned PI-number, 594371.

Collection Site Information: 'Copper' is an open pollinated composite of three accessions of seed originally collected in high elevation sites in Floyd County, VA (9002902), Mercer County, WV (9002905 and 9002906), and Bland County, VA (9002068).

Description: 'Copper' chinquapin is a native, deciduous, upland shrub which grows to a mature height of up to 12 feet in the north, and up to 20 feet in the southern part of the range. The leaves are similar to those of chestnut, oblong with fine pointed teeth up to 6 inches long. Chinquapin nuts are enclosed in spiny burs, with one nut per bur. Nuts are about 1/2 inch in diameter. Fruit matures in September. 'Copper' chinquapin is adapted to a wide range of soils and site conditions. 'Copper' chinquapin was selected due to winter hardiness, superior plant vigor and abundant fruit production. Chinquapin is found from southern Pennsylvania south to Florida. With the winter hardiness of 'Copper', its range of adaptation now extends up into southern New York.

Method of Breeding and Selection: A total of 19 accessions of chinquapin were collected from higher elevations from southern and mid-Atlantic states. These accessions were evaluated for 10 years for vigor, disease resistance, winter hardiness and seed production. The selected plants from three accessions that exhibited winter hardiness were moved into a seed production block. The progeny of this crossing block are provided to commercial growers to establish their seed production nursery. Plantings were evaluated in the north Appalachian region in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. The northern range of adaptation of 'Copper' is into the southern tier of New York.

Ecological Considerations and Evaluation: 'Copper' chinquapin is a native upland shrub that will be utilized for wildlife food and cover. The environmental evaluation of 'Copper' indicated no adverse effects on the environment.


Conservation Use" 'Copper' chinquapin is recommended to be used in wildlife plantings for food and cover. With its large seed production, the nuts will be eaten by squirrels, deer, grouse and wild turkey.

Area of Adaptation: 'Copper' chinquapin is adapted from the southern tier of New York down into West Virginia. This plant is adapted to a wide range of soils, from sandy loam to light clay. It has good suitability on well-drained sites in full sun or partial shade.

Availability of Plant Materials: A breeder seed production block will be maintained by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Big Flats Plant Materials Center, 3266-A Route 352, Corning, New York 14830. Seedlings will be available to commercial and state nurseries for the purpose of establishing seed orchards. Propagation procedures will be provided to those receiving plants.

References: Plants Database, USDA-NRCS, National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA

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9/21/05
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Robert Eschman
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
BIG FLATS PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

DOCUMENTATION OF A PLANT ACCESSION SELECTED FOR ADVANCED
TESTING

Species: Castanea pumila (L.) Mill.

Common Name: Chinquapin

Accession Numbers: 9051770 is a synthetic made up
of accessions 9002902,
9002905, 9002906, and 2102068

Origin: 9002902 was collected in
Floyd County, VA, 9002905
and 9002906 were collected in
Mercer County, WV, and
2102068 was collected in
Bland County, VA.

Method of Selection: Selected from a collection of
19 chinquapin accessions
collected from higher
Elevations from Southeastern
and Mid Atlantic States. They
were evaluated at the Big
Flats PMC from 1988-1994 for
vigor, disease resistance
winter hardyness and seed
production.

Description: Castanea pumila, is a
spreading shrub 5 - 6 meters
tall, with leaves similar to
chestnut, only smaller. The
bark is light brown, burs are
1 to 1-1/2 inches in diameter,
spiny, enclosing a single
brown nut. Seed is about 1/2
inch in diameter.

Anticipated Conservation Use: To be used for wildlife food and cover. It can be used as a component of mitigation plantings for wildlife on a variety of disturbed sites. The nuts are eaten by squirrel, deer, grouse, bobwhite quail, and wild turkey.

Potential Area of Adaptation: Georgia to Texas and north to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and most of Arkansas.

Potential Soil Adaption: It can be grown on sandy loam soils, or clay soils.

Seed will be maintained: Seed block will be maintained at the Big Flats PMC.