



Chestnut Management for Intermediate and Advanced Growers

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Red Fern Farm

Management Goal



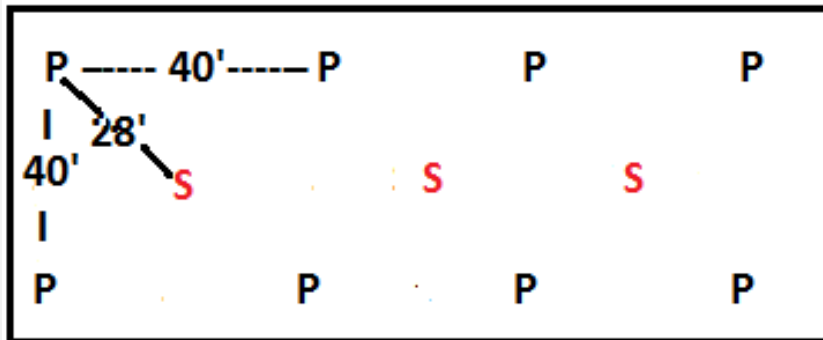
Red Fern Farm North Grove 2018

Three Chestnut Planting Plan Stages

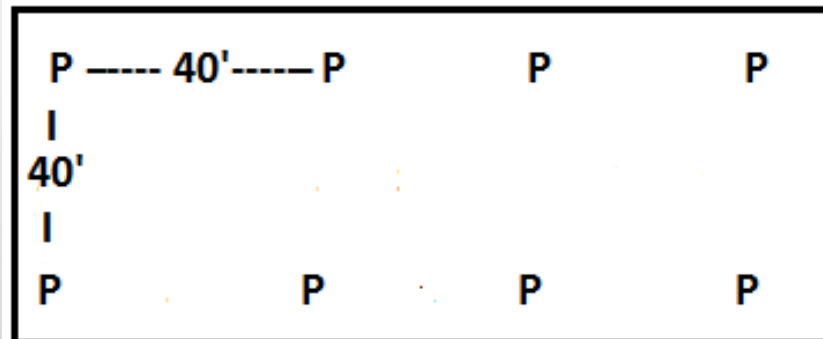
Stage 1: The Tree Planted Spacing



Stage 2: The First Tree Thinning



Stage 3: Final Orchard Spacing



Spacing

- 20ft x 20ft
- 108 trees/acre
- Thin to 40 x 40 by 20 years
- Then to 80 x 80
- 160 x 160 about year 500

When thinning consider:

- Nut size, quality & productivity
- Tree vigor
- Trunk health
- Crotch angles
- Canopy density

Nuts, size





Nuts, quality

- Peel ability
- Internal kernel breakdown
- Storability
- flavor



Nuts, productivity



Low Productivity

Nuts, productivity



High Productivity

Tree vigor



Tree vigor



Low Vigor



High Vigor

Trunk health



Questionable
trunk health



Good trunk health

Southwest bark injury



Minor



Moderate



Severe

Crotch Angles

Bad



Good



Crotch Angles



Bad

Excellent



Canopy Density



June 24, 2018



May 29, 2019

Chestnut blight



Pruning, remove some



Space around trees



Plant pawpaws

Space around trees



Graze, we like
Katahdins (hair sheep)



Market Development



Our way:
You-Pick by
appointment
.

Market Development



Easiest:
use the
coop in
Columbus
Junction,
Iowa

Deer Management



5 foot tall
Plantra tree
shelters,
then 20
inches of
drainage
tile.

Herbicide Drift



Dicamba
damage

Grafted Trees:



- Known genetics
- Produce great seeds
- Less productive
- Graft Union failure

27 year-old Chestnuts

Seedling versus Grafted



Chestnut weevil



Gall Wasps

