

C O P Y

1723 "Eye" St  
Eureka, Cal., Feb. 28, 1932.

Mr. G. F. Gravatt, Senior Pathologist,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your communication of Feb. 12, requesting information relative to varieties of chestnuts planted by us, please be advised that we have just completed our first planting this month, consisting of approximately 700 trees. These trees, with the exception of 35, were propagated by ourselves. Our seedlings were grown from nuts secured from two grafted Italian chestnuts growing in this county, which produce nuts of fairly good size and quality. We have grafted about 500 of these to American hybrids, the scions for which came from trees whose origin, (we are advised), is traced through a few trees growing near Grass Valley in this state, to the Riehl Orchards in Illinois. The variety is claimed to be an American-European hybrid and produces nuts of very good size, smooth, thinskin and sweet. We would be very glad if we could positively identify this variety.

Among the remaining 200 trees are about 100 Italian Chestnuts the scions for which came from a ranch in Calaveras County, Cal.; 65 American Sweet hybrids, scions for which were secured from a nurseryman in Nevada City Cal.; 12 Burbank's American Sweet-Japanese hybrid scions for which came from the Burbank Experimental Farm, Cal.; and 25 Chinese seedlings from the Government Gardens at Chico, Cal.

Please record this orchard planting in the names of H. A. Dinsmore and C. W. Taylor.

Although we have made a start toward a chestnut orchard and planted our 700 trees this year and intend to graft more trees this spring for setting out next spring, we still do not feel absolutely sure that we have the best variety obtainable for a market chestnut. We have spent quite a lot of time and money looking for varieties, but with our limited knowledge of chestnuts and the difficulty of getting in touch with those who might be in a position to advise us, we feel that there may be still better varieties obtainable. We will continue our search for better varieties with the intention of grafting our trees over if we should find something.

If your department can advise us in any way that might help us in our investigations, such help will be very gratefully received. We are certainly very anxious to get started right.

I thank you for your very interesting publication on chestnut blight. We were aware of that occurrence in Oregon and feel somewhat concerned because of it.

Thanking you for any interest you may take in our behalf, I am

Yours very truly  
(S) C. W. TAYLOR