

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

October 8, 1941.

DIVISION OF
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CROPS AND DISEASES

File
Mr. Wait Talcott,
Rockford, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Talcott :

A letter by you dated September 4 and addressed to this Department in Washington, was yesterday laid upon my desk. With it, there was a package of small chestnuts which your letter stated were from trees received from the Department in 1930.

First, please allow me to thank you for your courtesy in sending in these nuts. The fact that the nuts are well below the standard of size required for commercial varieties, in no way detracts from our appreciation of your fine spirit of cooperativeness. These are the first Chinese chestnut to reach our particular office from northwestern Illinois.

These nuts average at the rate of 146 to the pound. The maximum permitted with seedlings which are being chosen as foundation stock for new varieties is 70 to the pound.

One of the essentials of a good variety is that the kernel must readily separate itself from the pellicle. This is called "good cleaning quality." In their present condition, the nuts from you do not have this quality, except in part. However, it is altogether possible that they were better in this respect at the time of their arrival in some other office of the Department early last month.

These nuts were very sweet and regardless of either small size or indifferent cleaning quality, they should be well worth growing for home consumption until larger and more desirable nuts become available.

I shall take the liberty of sending a copy of this letter to Dr. A. S. Colby, University of Illinois, Urbana, your State as I am sure he will be interested in knowing of your trees.

Sincerely

(C. A. Reed)
Associate Pomologist.

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