



Winkel Chestnut Farm

Newsletter

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Next issue - Winter 2006/2007

Harvest Season

Picture this. It is a crisp clear fall day. All around you hear chestnuts dropping from the trees. Thump. Thump. Thump, thump. The race is on! *Harvest the crop before the squirrel and deer discover the bounty!*

Chestnut harvest time is coming up fast. This year the primary nut fall is expected to be from 25 September to 10 October.

Our first U-Pick

This year we will hold two U-Pick weekends. The farm will be open for U-pick both Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Dates will be 7/8 October and the following weekend 14/15 October.

The chestnuts are Chinese Chestnut (*Castanea Mollissima*) and European Chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*). What does that mean? We'd be glad to show you the difference.

Nut supply will be limited. This U-Pick will be strictly first-come first-served.

Please respect the trees. No tree climbing permitted. Let's make this a good outing for all; trees included.

We suggest you call ahead, or check at the www.ChestnutFarms.com web-site to confirm these dates before you set out to the farm.

What does U-Pick mean regarding chestnuts? When the nuts ripen on the tree they fall freely to the ground. As long as they are attached to the bur in the tree they are still ripening. Leave the nuts up in the tree there. Pick up freshly fallen nuts from the ground.

Occasionally the a partially opened bur will fall to the ground with nuts still inside. You might want to open the prickly bur to remove the nuts. You will want to be wearing sturdy leather gloves if you do that. Bring your own gloves along if you want to be prepared to remove nuts from the burs. The sharp spines on the burs are very painful to handle by hand.

When you get your chestnuts home we suggest you follow the storage instructions at our web site. Roasting instructions and several basic recipes will also be found at the web site.

Telephone and Internet orders

We will be accepting orders by internet and telephone before and during harvest season. As with last year, the order can be picked up at the farm during farm hours, or we can ship your order to all but a few states. Mail orders shipped within the US only.

Visit the farm

Yes, by all means. Visit the farm whether you have ordered chestnuts in advance or not! We will try to keep a supply of fresh harvested nuts available.

Tour the orchard, sample roasted chestnuts, visit the farm store.

No, we do not have a restaurant. Consider packing a picnic lunch; and possibly bring a blanket to spread on the ground. If the weather is cooperative the location is great.

Yes, children are welcome.

Yes, there is a (handicapped) restroom.

A map to the farm can be found at www.ChestnutFarms.com under the Farm/Map selections.

More? Just ask!

Sharing information is the key to the future of chestnuts in Michigan.

You will find us willing and eager to "talk Chestnut". Chestnut lore, storage, cooking, growing and harvest. Even lumber!

If it relates to chestnut we are ready to listen, or talk.

Special requests of any sort? Feel free to call (616-895-1332, email (ChestnutF@aol.com), or just stop by the farm.

Late Breaking News – Tree Nursery

Just approved by Michigan Dept of Agriculture to sell trees from our nursery! Chestnut trees in gallon pots. Selected large mature trees can be moved from the field!

Call if interested, or stop by the farm.

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