

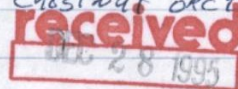
Dear Fred,

FNE94-42

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Finger Lake Chestnut Project

- ① GOAL: test planting of four cultivars of Grafted Chestnuts to test hardiness and compare yields and compute the cost to plant and bring into production a chestnut orchard in New York's Finger Lake Area.



- ② Updates on Farm: we have planted another 1/2 acre of Asparagus and have expanded our cut-flower plantings of lilies, alliums and perennials. Also plans are underway to plant a 1 acre apple orchard and purchase honey bees for pollination and honey production.

- ③ Cooperators: County Extension agent David Thorpe for soil testing and field recommendations.

- ④ What was done: Field was marked out, trees were planted 20'x20'. All planting was done by the last week of March. Because we have a Deer problem I purchased tree guards 5' in length from Treessentials located in St Paul MN. I also purchased 3'x3' plastic tree mats to keep weeds down and conserve water. (Tree guards and mats are shown in pictures) The grass was cut 3 times during growing season using a 5 foot 3 point hitch tractor mower.

We had a very dry growing season that made it necessary to irrigate four times (the tree guards and mats conserved much moisture thus saving on time and irrigation costs.

Costs of tree guard and mats were about \$500⁰⁰ also 800' of 1" inch irrigation pipe was purchased at about \$200⁰⁰

Summary: It will take another 1 to 2 years to see if grafts will live and grow and see if it is economical to grow chestnuts in the Finger Lake Area.