

Agenda for the online course, An Introduction to the American Chestnut

Developed by Stacy L. Clark, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station (stacy.l.clark@usda.gov; 865-318-8391)

Short description: The course is a self-paced course with interactive features. Learners can download information or navigate to external websites. Topics such as biology, silvics, ecology, historical and cultural importance, and effects of non-native species are covered. The course has audio to accompany each page, dendrology tables and papers for download, and a glossary. The total time to take the course is approximately 75 minutes, but this will vary by learner.

Topics and approximate time to complete in parenthesis:

Welcome (10 minutes)

- Welcome
- Pre-course survey
- Pre-course assessment

Silvics (25 minutes)

- Taxonomy
- Dendrology
- Wood properties
- Reproductive biology
- Range and extent
- Life history and growth patterns

Values (15 minutes)

- Historical values
- Ecological values

Demise of the American chestnut (10 minutes)

- Phytophthora and chestnut blight
- Other pests

Post-blight forests (5 minutes)

- Post-blight replacement and survival

Wrap-up (10 minutes)

- Wrap-up
- Post-survey survey
- Post-survey assessment
- Course completion