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The chestnut has a 4-7 inch long oval leaf with waving scallops tipped with bristles that point forward. Like the leaf of a beech, it has many parallel side veins.

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Castanea mollissima

Chinese Chestnut

Chinquapin

Castanea mollissima

Chinese Chestnut

Chinquapin



The fruit of the chestnut is enclosed in a characteristic prickly bur. That bur usually contains 2 or 3 nuts which are dark brown with one side flattened.

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This variety of chestnut is a comparatively small tree reaching only 30-50 feet. The bark is dark gray to brown, becoming furrowed into flat plate-like scales Castanea mollissima

Chinese Chestnut

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Castanea mollissima

Chinese Chestnut

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The American Chestnut (Castanea dentata) succumbed to an aggressive bark disease first noticed in the New York Botanical Gardens in 1904. Hybrids based on the Chinese Chestnut, resistant to this disease, are now helping the chestnut make a come-back in the U.S.

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