PLANT FACT SHEET

Castanea pumila (L.) Mill.

GENUS *Castanea* **FAMILY** Fagaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinquapin, Allegheny chinkapin, Virginia chestnut

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Nuts, Seeds

The nuts are eaten raw, roasted or ground as flour.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 20-30 m tall. It can be a large suckering shrub. It is often 4.5 m tall and 6 m wide. The bark is red-brown and furrowed into scaly plates. The young shoots are downy. The young leaves are white and furry on the underside. The leaves are 7.5-15 cm long by 3-5 cm wide. They have many straight parallel side veins. There are many very small white male flowers in catkins 10-15 cm long. These are at the base of leaves. There are a few female flowers 3 mm long at the base of smaller catkins. The nuts are inside spiny burrs. The nuts themselves are like round pointed acorns. They are edible.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is very cold tolerant. It grows in many soil types. It grows up to 1300 m altitude in southern USA. It suits hardiness zones 6-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. Seedlings need transplanting very early.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Trees bear in 4 years.

NOTES

All Castanea bear edible nuts. There are about 12 Castanea species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/56e6d5d1-c895-4506-9f2c-d666238bcc75