

Godfrey, Ill., Sept. 6, 1944

Dear Dr. Gravatt :

On our place most of the bearing size chestnut trees are dead, from blight or other causes. The Chinese trees are most resistant to blight, but they have other faults that make them worthless here. The Chinese nuts are more vulnerable to weevils and many of them spoil from no apparent cause.

When our nephew was called to the army three years ago there were several thousand Chinese chestnut trees in the nursery. We cannot dig and pack trees for shipment and it is impossible to get help. This summer I got some Champion Tree Killer and went to work on them killing the biggest ones first. Knowing how eternal chestnut stumps are and how hard they are to grub, I thought it might be a good idea to keep them from getting any bigger and perhaps start them to rotting so that when Erwin comes home he can with less work prepare the land for some other purpose.

I am sorry I cannot tell you something more encouraging.

Yours very truly

*Amelia Riehl*