

Endicott Pear Tree Scion Grafting Project

Endicott Pear Tree



1910

Plant a Part of Your Endicott Heritage



2010

In July 1997, cuttings (scion wood genetic clones) of the famous and historic *Endicott Pear Tree* in Danvers, Massachusetts were collected by Dr Joseph D. Postman, curator and plant pathologist with the ASDA/ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) at Corvallis, Oregon (a genebank that preserves invaluable plant genetic resources of temperate fruit, nut, and agronomic crops including collections representing global diversity of hazelnuts, strawberries, hops, pears, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, and cranberries). A clone was grown at the NCGR facility from these cuttings and matured to the point where scion wood cuttings could be made available to interested parties. With NCGR's cooperation, scion wood from their clone is being provided to the Endecott-Endicott Family Association, Inc (E.F.A.) for its Endicott Pear Tree Project. These scions are currently being grafted onto rootstock.

Phase I scions were obtained during the NCGR's clone tree's dormant stage in January-February, 2007. These grafts were in a growth and maturation stage during 2007 and 2008. Approximately 30 of the original 50 grafted scions survived (60% success rate). The surviving Phase I trees were shipped during the spring of 2009 and 2010 to those who had previously ordered and prepaid. Many of these trees did not survive the shipping, the handling after receipt and the planting process. The E.F.A.'s Endicott Tree Project made a commitment to replace many of these failed trees from future grafting phases as part of the anticipated 'growing pains' associated with a new project. Improvements in shipping, handling, organization, efficiency and communication (consumer



education) by The Endicott Pear Tree Project management should result in improved survival.

Unfortunately, **Phase II** (grafting seasons of March, 2009, 2010, and 2011) was problematic and resulted in no successful grafts. As a result, a management change occurred with the Endicott Pear Tree Project in 2011 and the new management enlisted the services of The Home Orchard Society of Portland, Oregon to provide a more reliable grafting source for the program. The January, 2012 scion harvest proved to be favorable in numbers and resulted in eighty trees being grafted for **Phase III** in March of 2012, however, questionable scion quality caused problems with survival. The Home Orchard Society normally expects a 90 to 95% survival rate of its grafts so lower scion quality probably led to the unfavorable survival percentage. Care management of the trees after grafting is also important for survival so, with the assistance of Joanie

Cooper of The Home Orchard Society, enhancements to that process have been instituted to be sure that future survival rates are optimized. The January, 2013 scion harvest was bountiful and the quality appears to have been good. In March, 2013, seventy-seven grafts were performed by The Home Orchard Society for **Phase IV**. The trees are now in the possession of The Endicott Pear Tree Project. We are anticipating that the improved post-graft care and growing environment will bring survival rates closer to expected levels.

The program currently has existing prepaid back-orders and new orders for 46 trees (not yet shipped) and non-paid interest for fourteen more. The program is hoping for a surplus of surviving trees from Phase IV to meet this and future demand. Most of these surviving grafted trees should be sufficiently mature and ready for shipping in the fall of 2013 or spring of 2014 when prime shipping and planting dates arrive. (Note: Some grafted trees could be planted now if picked up directly by customers).

Historically, the scion grafting for this project was undertaken by Endicott cousin, Cheryl Taylor, of Beaverton, Oregon who is a professional walnut grower. She graciously volunteered her services for the benefit of the Endicott Pear Tree Project up until May, 2011. The grafting is now being outsourced to The Home Orchard Society (a non-profit entity in the Portland, Oregon area) and the care of the grafted trees is being managed by Kyle Elwood in Salem, Oregon. The increased costs resulting from outsourcing the tree grafting process, unfortunately, required the EFA to increase the purchase price of the trees.

Trees are shipped directly from Salem, Oregon by Kyle Elwood on prepaid orders. A direct pick-up option is available to allow purchasers to save on shipping and handling charges. Included in the shipment or email communications are instructions for planting. A copy of the research article, *The Endicott Pear Tree* will be sent at a later date to each pear tree recipient. Each recipient is responsible for determining ideal shipping and planting times as well as assessing growing conditions for their respective geographical areas. Trees must be shipped, received and planted when outside temperatures are above freezing. Normally, tree shipping occurs when the tree is dormant...in the fall after leaf drop (October-November) or early spring (March-April) near the first moment of leafing. Trees which fail to thrive as a result of frail stock or shipping problems will be replaced when new stock is available during future production Phases. Trees failing as a result of improper care by the recipient are not guaranteed.

The Endicott Pear Tree is a semi-dwarf variety and it is expected that at full growth it will be approximately 15 to 20 feet (high and wide) at maturity. If fruit development is desired, it is necessary to have cross-pollination between two pear trees.

Scion clones of the original Endicott Pear Trees from Phase I and Phase III have been planted in many states at locations which include private residences, several state and local botanical gardens and historical sites. Plans also exist for future plantings to occur at additional historic Endicott sites. A waiting list has been established and, while there are many individuals, facilities and historic sites on this list, shipping priority is based upon the chronology of pre-payment.

Special note: In the past, orders have taken several years to fulfill, however, recent improvements in production capabilities suggest that future orders will be filled within a year following pre-payment. When we reach and maintain a surplus of trees, orders will be shipped with minimal delay during the first available, appropriate shipping season (early spring and fall).

Fall, shipping from the Phase IV trees to the priority recipients based upon on payment dates will begin in September or October of 2014. Appropriate shipping seasons for Spring shipping will be March or April and Fall shipping will be September or October.

Order Form

Please send your order and payment to:

Cindy Endicott Levingston
EFA, Inc. Treasurer
1097 Derby Lane
Howell, MI 48843

___ (Quantity) <i>Endicott Pear Tree(s) x \$30.00 per tree* (EFA Members)</i>	= \$ _____
___ (Quantity) <i>Endicott Pear Trees(s) x \$40.00 per tree* (Non-Members)</i>	= \$ _____
___ (Quantity) <i>Endicott Pear Tree Plaque(s) x \$17.50 per plaque*</i>	= \$ _____
Order Subtotal (prepay to reserve order & preserve price)	= \$ _____
Shipping and handling** for one tree	= \$ 16.00
Shipping and handling for each additional tree shipped in the same container is \$6.00 per tree. \$ 6.00 x _____ additional trees	= \$ _____
I prefer to pick up the tree directly from the project manager _____	= \$ -16.00
Total	= \$ _____

*All pricing subject to change without notice (prepayment reserves at that date's quoted price)

All demographic information requested below is essential for optimum shipping and communication needs.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Telephone No: _____
e-mail: _____

**Shipping is usually by USPS via priority mail, however, a physical address should be provided in the event that UPS or FEDEX must be used. Trees picked up directly from the project manager in Salem, Oregon will not be charged shipping or handling fees (initial your intent to do so on the order form to initiate the planning process). The rates listed are for U.S. shipments but not including Alaska and Hawaii which will be priced on a case-by-case basis. International shipments, if possible, are subject to international regulations and any associated costs are to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Thank You!

Kyle Elwood (Endicott Pear Tree Project, Manager); June 9, 2014