

# Chinquapin Tree

**Chinquapin**, also spelled **chinkapin**, any of several species of trees in the beech family (Fagaceae). Notably, they include several deciduous trees of the genus *Castanea* and evergreen trees and shrubs of the genus *Castanopsis* and *Chrysolepis*.

Chinquapins in the chestnut genus *Castanea* have hairy leaves and twigs and single-seeded burs. The American chinquapin, also known as dwarf chestnut (*Castanea pumila*), is found throughout much of the eastern and southern United States, though populations have declined because of infection by chestnut blight, a fungal disease. It ranges in size from a small shrub to a tree up to 46 feet high. Its nuts are consumed locally, and its durable wood has been used for telephone poles, fence posts, and railroad ties.

