

(COPY)

(Mr. G. F. Gravatt)

October 31, 1928

*See G.F.G. before
making this public*

Mr. J. O. Holt
Eugene Fruit Growers Association
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Under date of October 22, I received a letter from Mr. G. F. Gravatt, Senior Pathologist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, enclosing your letter of October 13 to Mr. C. A. Reed in regard to the embargo on eastern chestnuts. Mr. Gravatt asked me to answer your letter, since I am more familiar with the situation in Illinois.

About four years ago, we received a single specimen of chestnut blighted bark which Miss Amelia Riehl, of the Riehl Farm, had taken from a tree which she had destroyed. This was unquestionably the chestnut blight organism. A visit was made, within a short time, to the Riehl Farm, but in the meantime a man from the Department of Agriculture passing through that section of the country had found a single limb on which the blight occurred. The tree on which this occurred was also destroyed. When I visited the place a month or so later, I was not able to find a trace of any of the blight on any of the trees on the farm. A year later I found a single piece of living bark at the foot of one of the stumps which had been burned but which had not been completely killed when the trees were destroyed. I am not certain that the fungus was alive on this bark. However, I gave orders that the stumps be dug out and completely burned. This was immediately done. Since then I have made three inspections and the nursery inspectors from Mr. Glenn's office have also made frequent inspections. We have found no trace whatever of additional blight.

I feel reasonably certain that not only is there no blight at the Riehl Farm, but that the trees which Miss Riehl is selling as nursery stock have no chance whatever of becoming blighted. Miss Riehl is thoroughly alive to the danger of any blight getting into her orchard and is extremely careful. If she sees anything in the least suspicious she sends the material to us for identification. She insists that we go over the plantation at frequent intervals to be certain that there is no trace of another outbreak of the disease. I think it would be perfectly safe for anyone to order trees from the Riehl Farm.

I have never found any trace of blight in any other section of the state, but since we have few chestnut trees in this state, no very close attention has been given to this phase of the work. Certainly we would have heard of any blight on the commercial chestnuts in the various sections of the state had it been present.

Very truly yours,

(signed) H. W. Anderson

Associate Professor of
Pomological Pathology.

HWA:LM