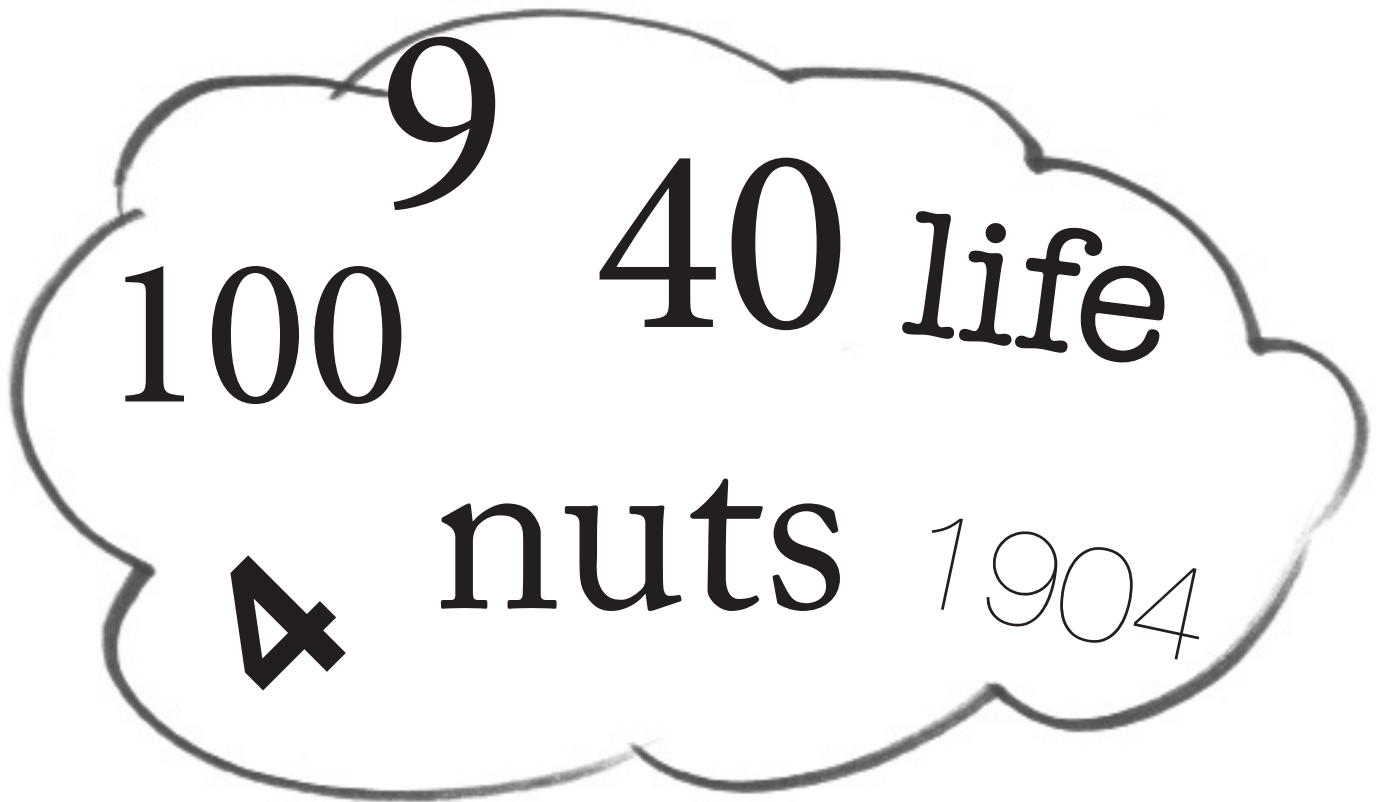


## A Lost American Hero: *Castanea dentata*



American chestnut trees once blanketed the east coast, with an estimated \_\_\_\_ billion trees spreading in dense canopies from Maine to Mississippi and Florida. These huge and ancient trees, up to \_\_\_\_ feet tall and \_\_\_\_ feet around, were awe-inspiring, the ‘Redwoods of the East coast’, but with an extra perk— the \_\_\_\_ were edible. Chestnuts were roasted, ground into flour for cakes and bread, and stewed into puddings. The leaves of the trees were boiled down into medicinal treatments by Native Americans. Thoreau wrote in his journal that the “old trees are our parents, and our parents’ parents, perchance.” Chestnut trees offered shade in town squares, they were the wood of choice for pioneers’ log cabins, and were a mainstay of American woodcraft. In short, Chestnuts were part of everyday American \_\_\_\_..until they weren’t.

In \_\_\_\_ the first Chestnut blight was spotted on a tree in New York’s Botanical Garden. Within \_\_\_\_ years of when the Chestnut blight was discovered the American Chestnut population in North America was devastated. Now it can only be found as reclaimed lumber.

Answer Key: 4, 100, 9, nuts, 1904, life, 40