

Cornus and Celtis – Dogwoods and Hackberry

These seeds are hard-coated and will not germinate readily unless the dormancy has been broken properly. Use one of the methods below for best results. The biggest single cause of failure with these seeds is that they are not ready to germinate, indeed if they do not come up in the first year, you are better off leaving them till the second to see if another cold period breaks the dormancy.

Sow seeds in early autumn, singly in pots of good potting compost. Water and seal in polythene bag and place outside or in cold-frame to allow winter weather to assist in breaking dormancy of seed. Seeds treated this way should germinate in spring, although they may take as much as 18 months ie the following spring.

Alternatively if seed cannot be sown in autumn, soak seed for 24 hours in luke warm water. Mix with some damp moss/peat/vermiculite or similar and place in ziplock bag in fridge for 3- 4 months. After this period of stratification sow singly in pots as above, germination should take a couple of months or more.

Growing on:

Over winter the young plants under cover (cold frame/cool greenhouse). Plant out in permanent position in the spring/summer after germination. Initial growth will be fairly quick so training (if used for bonsai) will have to start fairly early. Should flower in 5th year or later. It is hardy to USDA Zone 5 or lower.