

## **Redwoods – Sequoia, Sequoiadendron and Metasequoia**

Redwoods are fussy about their germination requirements, in the wild less than 1% germinate, however by following these instructions and recommendations, much higher rates can be obtained.

Storage prior to sowing – store in a cool place with no exposure to sunlight.

Breaking dormancy – best off doing this in a controlled fashion. Soak seeds overnight in lukewarm water. Then place in a plastic bag with damp sphagnum moss or vermiculite and place in the fridge for 28 – 56 days. Check the bag for any signs of germination and remove and plant any seeds that have germinated.

Sowing the seed – Sow in an evenly moist compost and cover the seeds lightly. The soil must not be too wet or too dry. If it feels dry then it is too dry, if you can squeeze any water out, then it is too wet. It should have a pH range from 5.5 to 7.5. Place somewhere where an even temperature of 70 Fahrenheit can be maintained and exclude all light.

Once the seeds have germinated admit light and air; grow on in cooler conditions. Do not allow to dry out, nor must you over water to avoid damping off (all conifers are susceptible to this problem). They are all relatively fast growing for the first few years and should be planted into final locations before they are a metre tall or they will check badly from the transplant process.