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## Seed Cleaning<sup>®</sup>

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My tool for today is using the kitchen cuisinart for *Sambucus* seed cleaning. We collect our *Sambucus* seed in the wild at site-specific locations throughout California. When we get the berries back to the nursery the first step in the seed cleaning process is to take the berries off the stems. When we have the berries off the stems we add them to the cuisinart, depending on how juicy the berries are we may or may not need to add water.

We run the cuisinart for about 1 minute until we have a puree of berries. Next we add the puree to an empty bucket and slowly add water. The viable seeds sink to the bottom of the bucket while the voided seeds and pulp float to the top. We keep adding water until we are left with clean seeds at the bottom of the bucket. The reason why we take the berries off the stems is because the cuisinart chops the stems up into little pieces and they sink to the bottom with the clean seed. We then drain the water and place the seeds on newspaper to dry. Because of our cleaning of the seed we can store the seed in a refrigerator for 6 to 8 years without mold problems. Our *Sambucus* seed take a 3-month stratification and we have found that the cleaner the seed is the less chance of mold and rotting we have during stratification. Thank you for letting me take the time to share with you today.

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## Rooting Softwood Cuttings Collected from Forced Large Stems of Oakleaf Hydrangea and American Chestnut<sup>®</sup>

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**Softwood shoots were forced from large stem segments of oakleaf hydrangea and American chestnut under intermittent mist. The softwood shoots were used as stem cuttings. Oakleaf hydrangea cuttings rooted >80% with or without auxin and forced shoots rooted better than similar cuttings collected from plants growing outdoors. Two American chestnut forced softwood cuttings rooted. The original stem segments tended to show symptoms of chestnut blight under mist.**