

## Question Box®

**Moderated by Deb McCown and Dick Bir.**

**MODERATOR BIR:** Has anyone experienced any lower rooting percentages with the use of the herbicide Factor (at recommended rates) on boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) cultivars taken from field grown plants? We experienced stem necrosis and leaf drop during the rooting process.

**EDITOR NOTE:** No answer to the question.

**MODERATOR BIR:** This is a three part question. Do true roots have a dormancy requirement? Do root cuttings have a dormancy? Can root cuttings be taken in fall and spring with equal success?

**BILL BARNES:** As far as I know, roots do not have a dormancy requirement. So you can take them when available.

**BOB OSBORNE:** From our experience, with both fall and spring cuttings, taking in the fall and storing over winter, at least for the genera we are working with, tend to have a better success rate. The cuttings will callus a bit and develop adventitious buds. For example, with *Syringa* we have better luck in the fall.

**ROD ACKERMAN:** We do quite a few plants from root cuttings some will do fine any time but others need a cold treatment, i.e., *Acanthus* which is a warm grower needs a cold period. *Stokesia* is another example of a plant that if taken in the fall will not start to grow until the spring.

**MODERATOR BIR:** Question for Shelly Dillard. Joerg Leiss wants to know the hardiness of *Enkianthus perulatus*?

**SHELLEY DILLARD:** Tony can you help me. They are growing in Orno, Maine. It has more to do with the soil. They need an acid soil. So a warm Zone 4 to 5. A lot of these Japanese plants are maritime plants so they tend to have a narrow range of temperature requirements.

**DENNIS NIEMEYER:** It grows well in Zone 7.

**MODERATOR BIR:** Question on *Stewartia ovata*. Received cleaned seed with 1 month cold, moist storage. I usually give *Stewartia* 5 months warm and 3 months cold. What should I do?

**BILL BARNES:** The first question that comes to my mind is how were they treated prior to the 1 month cold stratification. If they received 5 to 6 months or longer warm stratification, I would probably give them another 2 to 3 months cold. With out the prior information it is difficult to answer.

**TONY AIELLO:** They were picked this summer and moist stored in a refrigerator. We received them through the mail. We don't know what to do with them now.

**BILL BARNES:** Keep them cold, plant in the spring, let the seed go through a natural cycle, and hope they come up a year from now. Problem with *S. ovata* is that it occurs in more southernly climates, seed ripens early, and it needs a long warm ripening period. It sounds like you were short circuited before the cold. You need to restore the internal clock.

**DEB MCCOWN:** Question on Ellepots. What is the price and source for Ellepots?

**ALAN JONES:** The price varies according to the size of the pot. If anyone is interested they can contact me I can give you a source.

**DEB MCCOWN:** *Idesia polycarpa* question. Can it be rooted from root cuttings and softwood cuttings?

**BILL BARNES:** You can grow it from seed but will not know what the sex is. If you have an established plant it can be propagated from root cuttings. You could probably graft it onto seedlings. It does not root from softwood cuttings as far as I know.

**DEB MCCOWN:** Question for Tonya Albert. What percent peroxide do you use? Which bacterial and fungal diseases does hydrogen peroxide help control? Have you found plants sensitive to peroxide and unable to tolerate it?

**TONYA ALBERT:** We use 35% although you can get higher. We have not researched that yet. We do see less botrytis. We have not found any plants sensitive at the rate we are injecting.

**DEB MCCOWN:** Comment from Bill Barnes for Calvin Chong. I use 50 °F during winter on evergreen conifer cuttings and then increasing to 70 °F come the 1st of March. I just want to comment in general that the more callusing that occurs the less rooting will be as callus is undifferentiated and rooting cells are differentiated.

**BILL BARNES:** I just want to reinforce what Calvin is showing in his work. He asked if anyone was sticking cuttings at lower temperatures and I raised my hand. I find with thuja, juniper, or taxus that if you stick the cuttings at 50 °F and just let them sit for a couple months, come the 1st of March when the day length increases and the temperature picks up and you increase the temperature to 70 °F, they will root almost immediately. So I believe that the root initials are forming at the lower temperature and just sitting waiting for the warmer temperature. There is not much callus formation at these temperatures. I believe there is a competition at the higher temperature between the callus and roots at the same time. Calvin's work shows also that the colder temperature is preferable.