



How to Help Your Redwood Seedling Survive

The natural range of the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is a narrow band of coastline from Monterey County, California to Curry County in Oregon. In an appropriate climate, given proper shade and moisture, your hardy little seedling could grow two or more feet in height per year and develop a branch spread of up to 30 feet.

The reddish-brown color of redwood bark is the result of chemicals called tannins which provide the tree with natural protection against insects and rot. The fibrous outer layer of bark often turns gray as the tannins are leached out by heavy rainfall.

Your seedling may be potted and kept as a house plant or outdoors on a patio. It may also be planted directly in the ground.

Plant It Outdoors

Dig a hole at least twice as large as the root mass, remove the plastic tube, and pack native soil firmly around the roots. If the soil is high in clay, mix about one-quarter sand, one-quarter peat or compost, and

one-half native soil. Do not use manure or other hot fertilizer — this will burn the roots. Redwoods prefer slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5 - 6.0). A local nursery can test the pH of your soil and advise you how to adjust the acidity if necessary.

Redwood
seedlings are thriving
in many places
throughout the world.



Keep It Moist

Water your seedling and moisten the foliage often enough to keep it from drying out. As with other house plants, overwatering can be fatal. Keep the soil moist at all times, but not soggy. Do not let standing water accumulate in the pot.

Redwood foliage will dry (burn) easily, so guard your seedling from direct sunlight. If the climate is dry, your redwood will benefit from daily misting.



Don't Let It Freeze

If winter temperatures drop below freezing, your seedling will need deep mulch to protect its roots. If the foliage turns a reddish color, this may be a natural response to frost, and does not necessarily mean that the tree has died. Some yellow or brown foliage is to be ex-

pected in late summer and fall, as conifers lose some of their needles each year. Watch for new spring growth, which may either be reddish or pale green. Prune away any branches that appear dry, brown, and do not produce new growth.

