

## Redwood Seedlings



### Transplanting Your Seedling



The Coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, is native to parts of the Coast Range from Curry County, Oregon to Monterey County, California. A hardy landscaping tree, the Coast redwood is fast growing. It is not uncommon for redwoods to grow 2 - 5 ft/year and have a branch spread of 14-30 feet at the base. The branches grow straight out from the trunk and cup up slightly at the outer end. Branchlets, with flat, pointed, narrow needles growing in one plane on both sides of the stem, hang down from the lower, shaded limbs. As the tree grows taller, the needles near the top of the tree are reduced in size and resemble the foliage of the Giant Sequoia, a close relative.

This adaptation limits the evaporation of water from the needles as they are exposed to greater sunlight and stronger breezes.

The reddish-brown color of the bark is the result of chemicals called tannins which are present in the tree. The fibrous outer layer of bark often turns gray as the tannins are leached out by heavy rainfall. These tannins also make the tree practically pest free and rot resistant. Consequently, Coast redwoods are easy to grow when given ample water and shade.

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.

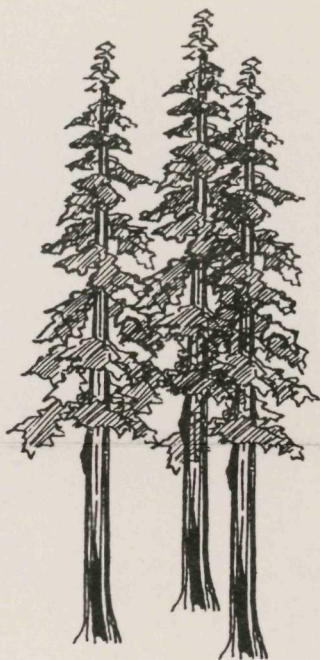
### Growing Coast Redwoods Out of Their Native Range

#### As A Potted Plant

If you chose to transplant your redwood into a pot, remove the plastic tube and transplant it into a pot at least as deep as the roots in the tube. A standard potting mix from your local nursery is sufficient for transplanting. Fertilize your seedling as you would any house plant. Remember that Coast redwoods are native to areas of high rainfall, frequent fog, and mild seasons. Keep the soil moist as all times, but not soggy. Redwood foliage will dry (burn) easily, so do not place your seedling near a window where it will get direct sunlight. If your climate is dry, your redwood will benefit from daily misting.

#### Growing Coast Redwoods Out of Their Native Range

Native to areas of high humidity and mild temperatures, Coast redwoods flourish in temperate climates. If you live in an area of extreme hot or cold temperatures, your outdoor redwood will need special care and protection. In an area of hot, dry summers, your redwood is susceptible to drying and burning. If possible, plant it where it will be shaded in the afternoon. However, it may eventually grow very large, so don't plant it too close to your house. In addition, your seedling will need water once or twice a week, depending on how quickly the soil dries out. Less frequent watering will be required in subsequent summers.



#### Plant Singly, In Groves Or As A Hedge

Although mature, centuries-old redwoods surpass 350 ft. in height, 70-90 ft. seems to be the most to be expected in a garden in one owner's lifetime. Use a redwood singly as a shade tree, or plant several in a 40 foot diameter circle. For grove or circle planting, space trees 7 ft. apart. Trees can also be planted 3-4 feet apart and topped at least once a year to make a beautiful hedge.

If you plant your redwood outdoors, dig a hole at least twice as large as the root mass, remove the plastic tube, and transplant into the native soil. If the soil is high in clay, mix about 1/4 sand, 1/4 peat or compost and 1/2 native soil. Do not use manure or other hot fertilizer, as this will burn the roots. Redwoods prefer slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5-6.0). A local nursery can tell you your soil's pH and can advise you how to adjust this acidity if necessary.

Coast redwoods, not as resistant to cold as most other conifers, are not very tolerant of temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. If your winters are severe, your seedling will need heavy mulching to protect the roots and foliage from freezing. Straw or sawdust are effective, but there are many other possible mulches. Again, your local nursery can advise you how best to protect your seedling. If your redwood's foliage turns a reddish color, this is its natural response to frost, and does not necessarily indicate dead tissue. Watch for new spring growth, which may be either reddish or pale green. After new growth has started, prune away any branches which appear dry and brown and do not produce new growth.

Redwood seedlings are growing successfully in many varied climates throughout the United States and the world. Good luck in taking this one and transplanting it in your home town!