

Growing a Red Bud Tree

If you wish to try your hand at growing redbud trees from seed, collect the seeds from the pods and store them in a sealed jar within the refrigerator. Around Valentine's Day, remove the seeds from the refrigerator and rub them a bit between two pieces of sandpaper.

This process will begin to remove some of the tough outer layer of the seeds and will aid in germination. Once you see that some of the outer layer has been sanded off the seeds, they are ready for the next step.

Boil some water in a pan, remove the pan from the heat and place the sanded seeds in the water. Allow them to soak in this water for three to four days. This step will further soften the seed coat and prepare the seeds for germination.

Once the seeds have been treated, they can be planted a quarter inch deep in small containers of moist sand or potting soil. For the next five to eight weeks, the planted seeds should be kept cool in the refrigerator or an unheated garage.

This chilling period acts as an imitation winter for the seeds. If you live in an area with cold winters, the seeds in their pots can be planted out in the garden, providing the soil is not yet frozen. If planting the pots outdoors, cover them with wire mesh so critters cannot dig them up for a snack.

After the five to eight week chilling period, the potted seeds may be placed outdoors and the seeds will begin to germinate when warm spring weather arrives. Once the seedlings have produced their first set of heart-shaped leaves, the little redbud trees may be planted in a permanent location in well draining soil.

Redbud trees grow rather quickly, up to one or two feet per year. So it won't take long for your seedlings to reach their mature size.

Once redbud trees have been planted, they do not like to be transplanted. Choose a good spot for redbud trees when they are young, and leave them in that spot to keep the trees happy. Redbud trees prefer soil that is slightly moist, and they will appreciate some extra watering during times of drought.

If redbud trees need to be pruned, the best time for this job is in the winter while the trees are dormant. However, winter pruning may sacrifice some blossoms in the spring. If you don't want to miss out on the beautiful spring display, prune your redbud trees immediately after they are done blooming for the season.