

### **Breaking Dormancy in Redbuds**

Some bare root trees have difficulty breaking dormancy after long periods of refrigerated storage; Redbud is one species known for this. You may need to “sweat” your redbud seedlings.

Normally this is done by potting the tree and placing it in a greenhouse until the buds swell. To sweat nursery stock at home, cover the entire plant roots to tip with wet packing or mulching material, wet newspaper works fine. Then cover or wrap it in a wet sheet. Finally, cover or wrap it in plastic. Store in the shade or in a garage. Check the buds every day, but it may take several days or weeks.

If you plant your tree not anticipating it would have difficulty breaking dormancy and the buds have not swelled in 2 to at most 3 weeks, sweat it in the ground. Enclose the tree top in a plastic bag (use white, black may trap way too much heat in the sun) and close it off at the trunk. After the first couple of days, absolutely open the bag every day to check the buds. You will allow some important air circulation and allow excess heat to escape if it is in direct, warm sunlight.

Additional information from the University of Kentucky:

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/HLA/Dunwell/LnrSweat.html>