

Thanks for joining me for the *Starting New Plants from Seeds, Cuttings and More* webinar sponsored by Diggers Hotline and hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library. One of the best things about my work is visiting with all of you and your great questions that help keep me learning. Here is the follow up information I promised to send:

Propagating Trees and Shrubs

Resources to check out and may be available at your library and are still available for sale online.

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael Dirr

Includes descriptions of individual plants, preferred growing conditions, uses in the landscape, problems and propagation information.

The Reference Manual of Woody Plant Propagation by Michael Dirr and Charles Heuser Jr

Covers details about starting individual species of plants via seeds (including when and how to collect), cuttings and tissue culture. Practical propagation information is provided and includes species of gymnosperms.

Seeds of Woody Plants in North America by James A Young and Cheryl G. Young

I have the 1992 edition and there is a 2009 edition, but the description is exactly the same so, I am not sure it is truly updated. This book covers harvesting, cleaning, storage, stratification, methods of testing, germination and sowing of the seeds. I was reviewing the introduction and found it interesting that they mentioned an increase interest in growing native plants and this was in 1992.

[The Woody Plant Seed Manual](#) from the USDA Forest Service

July of 2008. Free to download and focuses on general and some specific methods of producing and handling of seeds.

Propagating Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) from seeds.

Soak in hot water bath – Pour hot water (190° F (88°C) over seeds and allow to steep for 6 to 12 hours to penetrate the hard seed coat followed by 3 months of cold moist stratification. Seeds collected from southern plants can be planted after the hot water bath, no stratification needed.

Hydrangeas - softwood cuttings made in June or July from non-patented plants seem to work for all species

[Soiless Growing Mediums](#) Advantages and disadvantages of different soiless planting media including information on nutrient deficiencies with coir.

[Palm Seed Germination](#) Propagation insights from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Canna I mentioned grown from seeds was an All-America Selections Winner [South Pacific](#)

[Cold Frames and Hotbeds](#) Overview from Cornell Cooperative Extension

Options for free fertilizer:

[Compost Tea Should be Brewed](#) I mentioned the concern for using compost tea on edible plants. Using the raw leachate may contain harmful bacteria so brewing before use is recommended.

Worm castings is a great fertilizer that can be incorporated into seed starting media as a slow-release fertilizer. You can [make your own](#) or purchase finished castings.

[Compost](#) is a great amendment for garden soil and planting mixes. It improves drainage and increases water holding ability of soils, adds nutrients and promotes healthy growth and [more](#).

[Composting 101](#) Tips on various ways to create compost.

Winter Sowing dates [for zone 5b](#). I start mine when I would normally start them indoors under lights and find it works well for me and may be a good starting point for you.

Why do some [seeds need light to germinate](#)? There are 3 classifications, those that need light to germinate, those that need dark to germinate and those that can sprout in either light or dark. Light and darkness and other factors influencing germination act through the phytochrome and are responsible for the germination-light interaction of these 3 classifications. Perhaps it's an adaptation to the environment that developed over time or genetics.

Thanks again for attending and your great questions!

Melinda