

Trials and Tribulations of Producing *Acer pensylvanicum* 'Erythrocladum'

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INTRODUCTION

Acer pensylvanicum 'Erythrocladum' was introduced by Spath Nursery of Berlin, Germany in 1904. It is a fast growing tree with striped green and white bark in summer. Its pendulous racemes of yellowish flowers appear in spring before the foliage. Attractive foliage turns clear yellow in fall. But its most important attribute is its bark, all of which, from the ground up to the tips, starts turning to pink in the fall with the cool weather, becoming a startling bright coral-red during the winter. It is a superb plant for the winter landscape.

This paper is the result of work by two nurseries and one arboretum.

PROPAGATION RESULTS

Softwood Cuttings.

Arnold Arboretum.

- Hormone F at 5000 ppm and 10,000 ppm under mist.
- Medium: pumice, perlite, and peat (6 : 3 : 1, by volume).
- Ten cuttings were stuck, five of which rooted.

Broken Arrow Nursery.

- Took four cuttings in late July, two of which rooted under fog.

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- 1 : 20 Dip 'N Grow (1 : 20, v/v) 750 ppm under mist.
- Medium: pumice and peat (9 : 1, v/v).
- Fifteen cuttings taken late June, nine rooted 4 weeks later.

Grafting.

Arnold Arboretum.

- First attempt used a veneer graft: 27 grafted, eight took, three survived.
- Second attempt was grafted onto *A. negundo*; 40 grafted, three lived until summer.
- Third attempt was chip budded: 43 were grafted but they did not have a record of the results.

Broken Arrow Nursery.

- Side-grafted four on Feb. 1996, using the hot pipe method: three out of four took and two survived.

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- Veneer grafted onto *A. pensylvanicum*.
- Understock brought in after 1 Jan. and grafted as soon as white

root appeared: 15 grafted, eight took and leafed out, but only four lived to be potted.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that much additional work has to be done to find a successful way to propagate this plant in high percentages. We will be trying stick budding in August under plastic. At this stage it looks like rooting softwood cuttings is the best method.