

PLANT CARE SHEET

DAWN REDWOOD (METASEQUOIA)



Placement

The Dawn Redwood prefers a sunny location outdoors where it can receive ample light. It is a deciduous tree and will lose its needles in winter, which is normal. Protect the tree from extreme frost by placing it in a sheltered spot or providing light insulation during very cold weather.

Watering

Dawn Redwoods thrive in consistently moist soil but should not sit in waterlogged conditions. Water thoroughly whenever the soil begins to dry out, especially during hot weather. In winter, reduce watering but ensure the soil doesn't dry out completely.

Fertilising

Feed the tree every two weeks during the growing season (spring through early autumn) with a balanced liquid fertiliser. Alternatively, use a slow-release organic fertiliser monthly. Cease feeding during the dormant winter period.

Pruning and Wiring

The Dawn Redwood responds well to regular pruning. Trim back new growth to maintain shape and size, especially in late spring. Wiring can be done during the growing season, but care must be taken to avoid damaging the bark. Remove wiring promptly once the desired shape is achieved.

Repotting

Repot every two to three years in early spring before the growing season begins. Use a well-draining bonsai soil mix. Trim the roots carefully during repotting, and ensure the tree is well-watered afterward to minimize stress.

Propagation

Propagate Dawn Redwoods through softwood cuttings in summer or by seeds in autumn. Seeds require stratification to enhance germination. Growing from seed is rewarding but requires patience.

Pests and Diseases

Dawn Redwoods are generally hardy but can be susceptible to spider mites, aphids, and scale. Treat infestations with insecticidal soap or neem oil. Fungal diseases such as root rot can occur in poorly drained soil, so ensure proper drainage.