

# Stratification of Cypress Seeds.

## Materials needed:

- Pan(s) large enough to hold seeds
- Ethel alcohol, funnel
- Sealable plastic bags
- Cheesecloth, yarn, large-eyed needles (optional)
- Markers



## Procedure

### Pre-treatment of seeds.

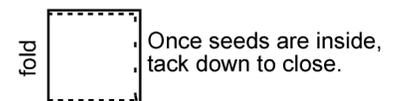
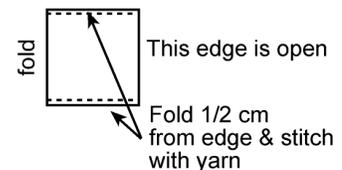
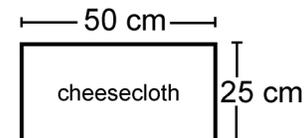
1. Place cypress seeds in pan.
2. Soak seeds in ethyl alcohol for 5 minutes.
3. Drain ethyl alcohol from seeds and funnel the ethyl alcohol back into its container and recap it.
4. Rinse cypress seeds with water. Drain seeds.

### Preparation of stratification medium.

1. Break up bale of peat moss so that there are no large clumps. This can be dusty – so consider doing this step outside in a large plastic container such as a garbage can.
2. Soak peat moss in water until wet (overnight is fine).
3. Squeeze excess water from peat moss until it is just damp. Peat moss that is too wet or too dry will not allow seeds to germinate/live.

### Preparation of cheesecloth bags to retain cypress seeds (optional).

1. Sew cheesecloth bags just slightly smaller than the sealable plastic bags that will be used in the stratification process. *NOTE: This optional step is a time and labor saver. By putting seeds into the cheesecloth bags, students will not have to manually separate the cypress seeds out from the peat moss at the end of the stratification time period. The diagram to the right illustrates how to make these bags for a gallon-sized sealable plastic bag.*



A cypress ball and individual cypress seeds. Five of the individual seeds have been separated from the hard light brown husk. Notice the irregular shape of the dark brown cypress seeds.

### Stratification.

1. In a sealable plastic bag, layer damp peat moss and cypress seed cheesecloth bags.
2. Close and label each plastic bag with plant name and date.
3. Refrigerate seeds until spring planting time.