

PROPAGATION OF *STEWARTIA PSEUDOCAMELLIA* VAR. *KOREANA* BY CUTTINGS

Japanese Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia*) and Korean Stewartia (*Stewartia pseudocamellia* var. *koreana*, formerly classified as *Stewartia koreana*) are not widely found in the trade.

They are small trees (35-60 feet) with dense pyramidal habit. The summer flowers, fall color and interesting bark pattern during the winter make it an outstanding landscape specimen.

The flower is very similar to that of a single camellia, to which stewartias are closely related (hence the name of this species). The white flowers 2-3 inches in diameter, with purple stamens, appear in July for several weeks when few other woody plants are in bloom. The leaves are dark green in summer turning orange to red-purple in the fall. The redbrown bark exfoliates in large thin flakes to expose green inner bark and produces a distinctive appearance.

Seeds of various species of this genus all appear to require warm stratification followed by chilling before germination will occur. Under normal conditions these seeds would be 'two-year' dormancy types. However, freshly dispersed seed can be given a warm treatment for 150 days to 180 days at fluctuating temperatures of 68 to 86 degrees fahrenheit and then a 90 day cold treatment at 41 degrees fahrenheit to promote germination the following early summer. Stewartia may also be vegetatively propagated.

In research at the North Willamette Experiment Station, softwood cuttings of *Japanese stewartia* and *Korean stewartia* were taken June 30, 1981, and dipped in talc powder containing 0.8% IBA plus a fungicide. The cuttings were stuck in a flat of 1 part perlite to 1 part coarse sand and placed on a mist bench with 70°F bottom heat until the dormant season when the flat was moved to a cool greenhouse. In mid-March when up to 2 inches of new growth was evident, *S. pseudocamellia* was evaluated. In mid-April when up to 1 inch of new growth was noted, *S. pseudocamellia* var. *koreana* was evaluated. The 0.8% IBA, 10% Captan combination gave the best results (Table 1).

Table 1. Effects of IBA and 4 fungicides on rooting of *Stewartia pseudocamellia* and *S. pseudocamellia* var. *koreana*.

<u>Growth Regulator</u>	<u>Fungicide^x</u>	<u>Pseudo-camellia</u>	<u>Percent rooted^y var. koreana</u>
0.8% IBA ^Z	10% Captan	90	80
0.8% IBA	5% Benlate	60	10
0.8% IBA	1.5% Truban	80	20
0.8% IBA	5% Phygon	70	10
Control		60	30

^xPercent active ingredient, ^y10 cuttings per treatment, ^ZIndole Butyric Acid

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