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Effects of seed source and pre-planting treatment on emergence of *Juniperus scopulorum* Sarg. in a Great Plains nursery

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ABSTRACT

Reliable propagation of Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum* Sarg. [Cupressaceae]) for use as an evergreen shelterbelt species in the southern Great Plains is hindered by inconsistent seedling emergence and establishment. We evaluated a series of pre-planting treatments as well as 2 planting depths for both fall and spring planting dates using a single seed source. We then tested 6 seed sources using the 3 best treatments. The best treatment was 13 wk at 22 °C (72 °F) followed by 13 wk at 4 °C (39 °F; 23% emergence for fall and spring planting combined). Fall planting resulted in greater success for differing pre-planting treatments. Planting depth did not affect emergence. Only one of 6 seed sources produced seedlings in response to coldonly treatment while combining warm and cold treatments was generally successful for all seed sources.

Tauer PK, Will RE, Porterfield JD. 2011. Effects of seed source and pre-planting treatment on emergence of *Juniperus scopulorum* Sarg. in a Great Plains nursery. Native Plants Journal 12(3):241–248.

KEY WORDS

Rocky Mountain juniper, planting depth, seed dormancy, season of planting, bareroot

NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2010)