

Central European Cold Period of February 2012:

Plant performance in JackPots versus Plastic Containers

During the first two weeks of February 2012 a Siberian cold front brought the coldest temperatures to Europe for the last 27 years. The preceding three winter months were comparatively mild delivering only a few nights with temperatures below freezing. It is therefore possible, that early spring growth was already starting when the cold spell hit.

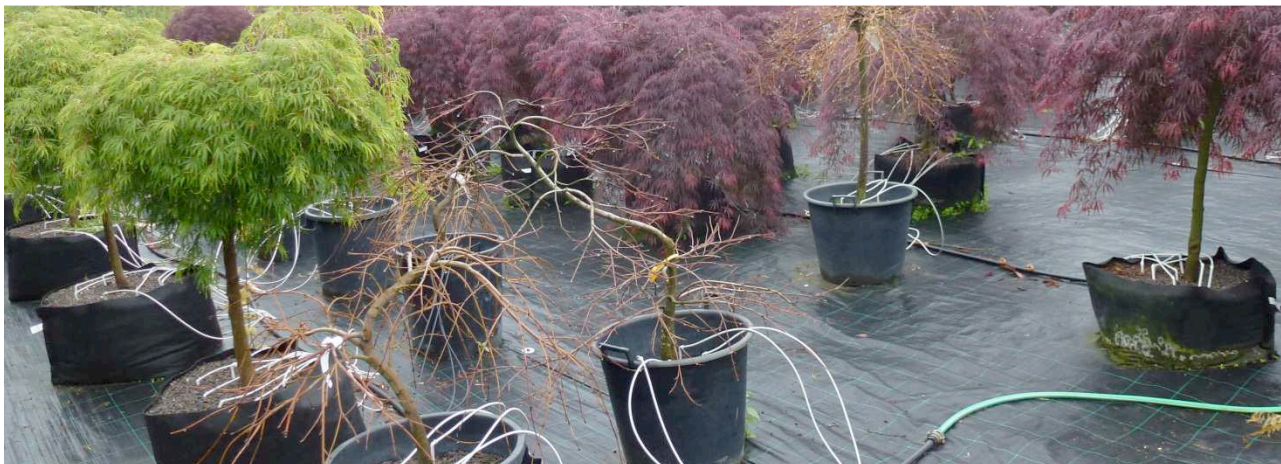
Container grown plants considered 100% winter hard in Central Europe such as *Acer palmatum*, *Buxus sempervirens*, *Enkianthus campanulata*, *Juniperus squamata*, *Pieris japonica*, *Prunus laurocerasus*, *P.lusitanica*, *Taxus baccata*, etc. suffered from the cold or even perished.

Our nursery grows on a 2 hectare property mainly solitary plants for use on terraces, rooftops and exclusive gardens. We are located on an exposed plateau at 620 meters above Sea Level approximately 15 kilometers northeast of Zurich/Switzerland. All our stock is produced in mainly larger than average size containers - about 50% in conventional polyethylene (plastic) containers and the other half in JackPots.

With spring approaching it became obvious, that freeze related damage occurred exclusively on plants grown in plastic containers. While on the other hand none of the plants growing in JackPots showed any sort of harm:



Buxus sempervirens



Acer palmatum



Acer palmatum

This last experience came like the final piece to the puzzle and led us to the decision to further use JackPots exclusively for solitary tree production on our property!

Palm-Shop



Beat Lanz