

# Dormancy

My style: Bryan L.

There are two main reasons to find a good place to put your trees for their dormancy period.

1. They need to be consistently cool to cold. 40\* to 20\* or less
2. You need to keep the wind and bright sun from drying out an evergreen tree. A frozen rootball will not get water to the branches.

Most people use their garage. I use my garage for large trees that are still in their wooden boxes. All of my trees in pots fit into a cold frame (I hope) that I dug a few years ago. I keep my trees outside until it seems like that it will get to and stay below 20\*.

In the garage, I just put them on the floor. It helps to keep them at a moderate temperature. I may help to warm them when it gets really cold and cool them a little when the garage warms up. This is an important thing for trees. If they get cold and then warm up, above 40, repeatedly, their stored energy will be wasted. I spent some time in Kansas every year. In Kansas they can get warm wind from Texas and New Mexico and it can switch and get cold air from Nebraska and South Dakota. They have fewer deciduous trees there because of this temperature change.

Because of the warm times in a garage, above 40\*, you will have to put a light above your trees or have them in a window. This will

help them if they go into a growing mode. Use your doors in the garage to aid in controlling the temperature inside.

My cold frame is about two feet below the soil line and is up against the house. It has some clear sides to let some light in but not enough that the sun warms it up. The sun warming each day can be bad for your trees. Then I have a thermostat and 2 heating mats to warm the roots when needed. The roots are more tender than the branches. I put the thermostat probe in the soil of one of the pots so the heat is added when the soil gets too cold. I will be setting it to go on at about 25\*. You could use this to warm the trees on a garage floor if you want to also.

You will need to check on the trees for water whenever it gets above 32\* in their winter home. Don't forget about them.

This is just my style. You can be you. Bryan