

TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



HANDLING SEED OF *ACACIA MELLIFERA* (HOOK THORN)

Seed Issue Note No. (66) 1997

Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for 4 years at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are maintained in the sealed polyethylene bag. However, it is recommended to sow the seeds within one year of receipt.

Treatment before sowing

Pour boiling water over the seed (volume of seed to water should be 1:5) stir to facilitate soaking until the water-cools. Seeds not swollen should be separated and treated again. Treated seeds should be sown immediately.

Alternatively, seeds can be nipped at the end opposite the scar by a nail cutter.

Sowing

A space about 1 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give sowing density of 10,000 seeds per m² of seed bed corresponding to approx 0.5 kg of seeds per m² of seed bed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

At the 3rd day after sowing the root comes out. The germination reaches 50% after 5 days and 80% after 10 days.

One kg contains 20,000 seeds and may produce 17,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 15,000 seedlings per kg will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at day 4 in the drawing.

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