

TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



HANDLING SEED OF *ALBIZIA LEBBECK* (WOMAN'S TONGUE)

Seed Issue Note No. (6) 1995

Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for several years at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are maintained in the sealed polythene 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 nail cutter.

Sowing

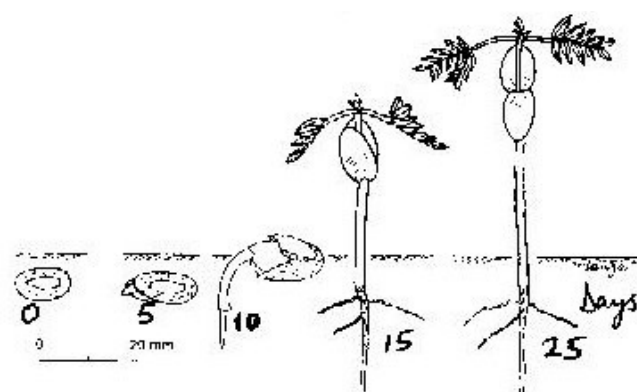
A space about 1.5 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give a sowing density of 4,500 seeds per m² of seedbed corresponding to approx. 0.5 kg of seed per m² of seedbed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

At the 5th days after sowing the root comes out (see drawing). The germination reaches 40% after 12 days and 75% after 21 days.

One kg contains 7,500 seeds and may produce 5,500 seedlings under ideal conditions. But in many cases only 3,000 seedlings per kg will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at day 10 in the drawing.

The species fixes nitrogen.



Stages in the Germination of *Albizia lebeck* seed

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