



**HANDLING SEED OF *DALBERGIA MELANOXYLON*
(EAST AFRICAN BLACK WOOD)**

Seed Issue Note No. (9) 1995

Temporary storage

Properly dried pods can be stored up to a year at room temperature without significant loss of viability.

Treatment before sowing

Pods should be broken by hand into short pieces each containing one seed and soaked in cold water for 6 hours, then sown together with seeds. Seed extraction is not recommended because of their fragility and many of the pods are empty.

Sowing

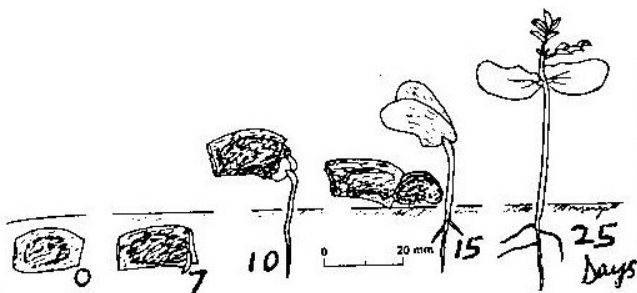
A space of about 1.5 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give a sowing density of 4,500 pieces of cut pods per m² of seed bed corresponding to approx. 0.25 kg of pieces per m² of seed bed. The cut pods should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

At the 7th day after sowing the root comes out (see drawing). It reaches 6% after 20 days and 60% after 40 days.

One kg contains 16,000 pieces of cut pods and may produce 9,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. But in many cases, only 6,000 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 and has got mycorrhiza association.



Stages in the Germination of *Dalbergia melanoxylon* seed

**Tanzania Tree Seed Agency
S.L.P. 373, Morogoro – Tanzania**

Tel: 023 260 3192/3903

Fax: 023 260 3275

E-mail: ttsa@morogoro.net