

## TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



### HANDLING SEED OF *DELONIX ELATA* (MSELE)

Seed Issue Note No. (55) 1996

#### Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for 5 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.

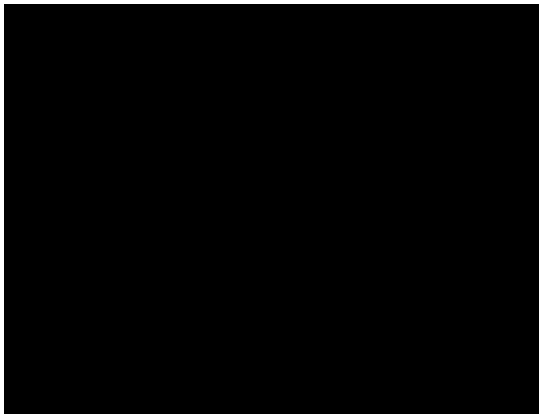
#### Sowing

A space about 1 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give a sowing density of 10,000 seeds per m<sup>2</sup> of seedbed corresponding to approx 2.5 kg of seeds per m<sup>2</sup> of seedbed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

#### Germination

At the 4th days after sowing the root comes out (See drawing). The germination reaches 40% after 10 days and 90% after 15 days.

One kg contains 3,700 seeds and may produce 3,300 seedlings under ideal conditions. But in many cases only 2,300 seedlings per kg will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at day 7 in the drawing.



Germination stages in seeds of *Delonix elata*

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