

TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



HANDLING SEED OF *ERYTHRINA ABYSSINICA* (REDHOT POKER TREE)

Seed Issue Note No. (19) 1995

Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for several years at room temperature if kept dry and free from insects.

Treatment before sowing

Pour hot water (75°C) 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 nicked at any side by a nail cutter.

Sowing

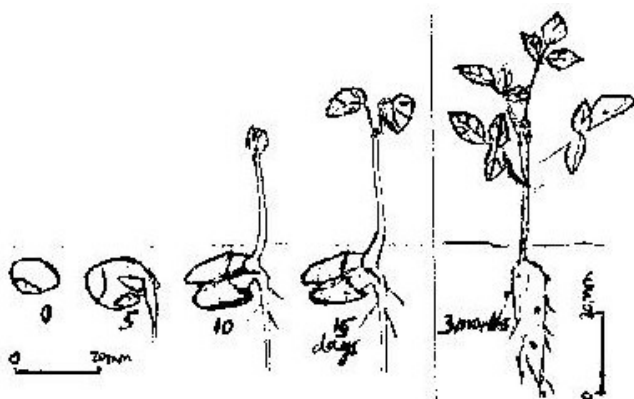
A space of about 1.5 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give a sowing density of 4,500 seeds per m² of seedbed. Seed should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

The germination % is usually low. It reaches 20% after 15 days and 60% after 25 days.

One kg of seeds contains 4,000 seeds and may produce 2,400 seedlings under ideal conditions. In many cases, only 2,000 seedlings per kg of seed 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.



Germination stages in the seed of *Erythrina abyssinica*

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