



**HANDLING SEED OF *LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA*
(LEUCAENA)**

Seed Issue Note No. (56) 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 m² of seedbed corresponding to approx 0.5 kg of seedbed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

Germination reaches 50% after 7 days and 90% after 10 days.

One kg contains 20,000 seeds and may produce 18,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 15,000 seedlings per kg will be obtained.

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

Tel: 023 260 3192/3903

Fax: 023 260 3275

E-mail: ttsa@morogoro.net