



**HANDLING SEED OF *SCLEROCARYA BIRREA*
(MARULA)**

Seed Issue Note No. (93) 1999

Temporary storage

Well-dried stones can be stored up to four years at room temperature without significant loss of viability. However, it is recommended to sow the seeds within one year of receipt.

Treatment before sowing

Windows should be removed with a small chisel.

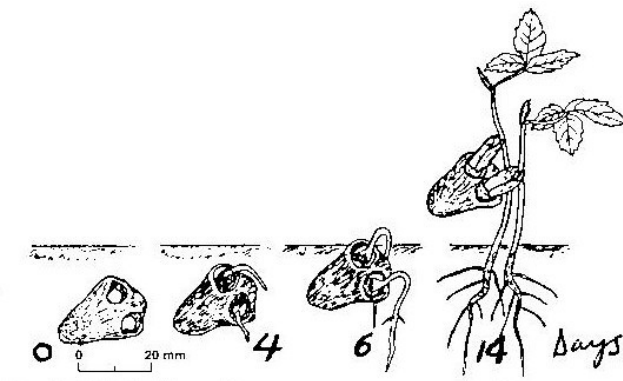
Sowing

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 9 kg of seed per m² of seedbed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

With treated stones, germination is very good and uniform reaching 70% after 1 week and 85% after 2 weeks from sowing. With untreated stones germination is sporadic 50% germination may be attained between 3 and 5 months from sowing.

One kg contains 700 stones and may produce 500 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 300 seedlings per kg will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at week 2 in the drawing.



Stages in the Germination of *Sclerocarya birrea* seed

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