

TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



HANDLING SEED OF *SENNA SIAMEA* (IRON WOOD TREE)

Seed Issue Note No. (30) 1996

Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for several years at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are well dried and packed in polyethylene bag or any air tight container. However, it is recommended to sow the seeds within two years of receipt.

Treatment before sowing

Seeds should be soaked in cold water for 6 - 12 hours before sowing.

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 seed bed. This is approximately 0.25 kg of seed per m² of seedbed. Seeds should be covered with sand to a depth of 0.5 cm.

Direct sowing of seeds into polyethylene pots is also possible. One or two seeds should be placed at the centre of the pot and covered with soil or sand to a depth of 0.5 cm.

Germination

Germination reaches 30% after 7 days and 70% after 14 days.

One kg contains 39,000 seeds and may produce 27,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. But in many cases only 20,000 seedlings per kg of seed will be produced. Transplanting into pots can take place when the cotyledons have just appeared on the surface of the seedbed.

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