

TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



HANDLING SEED OF *ZIZIPHUS ABYSSINICA* (MKUNAZI)

Seed Issue Note No. (8) 1995

Temporary storage

Well dried "Stones" can be stored up to a year, after which viability starts to drop gradually.

Treatment before sowing

The "Stones" should be cracked with a small harmer or a table vice and seeds should be removed completely from the shell. One "Stone" contains two seeds. However many "Stones" are empty. One kg has 450 "Stones" which may produce 600 seeds, about 80 g.

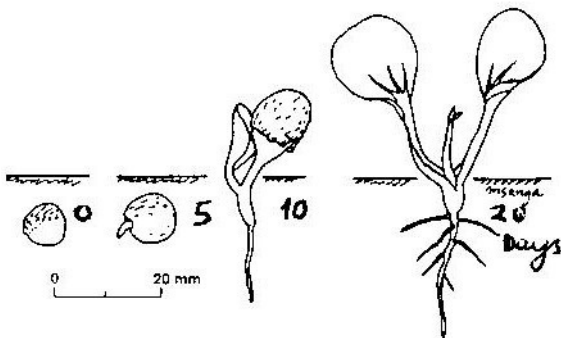
Sowing

A space of about 1 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give a sowing density of 10,000 seeds per m² of seed bed corresponding to approx. 0.5 kg of seed per m² of seed bed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

Germination

At the 4th day after sowing the root comes out and germination is finalised in 20 days. One kg of seeds contains 6,000 seeds and may produce 6,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. But in many cases only 4,500 seedlings per kg will be obtained.

Transplanting into pots may take place when the seedling is about 2 cm high.



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