

TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



HANDLING SEED OF *ADANSONIA DIGITATA* (BAOBAB)

Seed Issue Note No. (62) 1996

Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for 2 years at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are maintained in the sealed polythene 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. Continue soaking for 12 hours.

Alternatively, seeds can be nipped at the end opposite the scar by nail cutter.

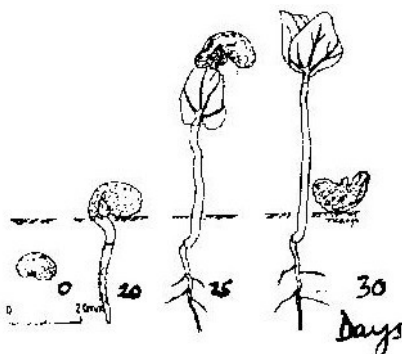
Sowing

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

Germination

At the 3rd week after sowing the root comes out (see drawing). The germination reaches 30% after 4 weeks and 65% after 12 weeks.

One kg contains 2,500 seeds and may produce 1,600 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 1,200 seedlings per kg will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at day 25 in the drawing.



Germination stages in seed of *Adansonia digitata*

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