

# TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



## HANDLING SEED OF *AZADIRACHTA INDICA* (NEEM)

Seed Issue Note No. (5) 1995

### Temporary storage

The seed should be stored in be moist conditions at room temperature in small quantities (less than 10 kg), in cotton cloth bags. The seed does not tolerate desiccation and freezing. It is recommended that Neem seed should be sown immediately upon receipt. The seed losses viability within 4 weeks.

### Treatment before sowing

Treatment is not necessary.

### Sowing

Seeds should be sown directly into polyethylene pots or any other container. One or more seeds (depending on viability) should be placed at the centre of the pot and covered with the potting soil or sand to a depth of about 1 cm.

### Germination

The germination of fresh seed is very good but sporadic. 15% germination is attained after 1 week and 90% in 3 weeks after sowing. One kg contains 4,800 seeds and can produce 4,300 seedlings under ideal conditions but in many cases only 4,000 seedlings per kg will be obtained.

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