



**HANDLING SEED OF *BAUHINIA VARIAGATA*
(ORCHID TREE)**

Seed Issue Note No. (73) 1997

Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for several years at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are maintained in the sealed polyethylene 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 water should be 1:5). Stir to facilitate soaking until the water-cools. Seeds not swollen should be separated and treated again. Treated seeds should be sown immediately.

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

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

Germination

At the 5th day after sowing the root comes out. The germination reaches 40% after 12 days and 75% after 21 days.

One kg contains 6,000 seeds and may produce 5,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 4,000 seedlings per kg will be obtained.

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