



**HANDLING SEED OF *PITHECELOBIUM  
DULCE*  
(MADRAS THORN TREE)**

Seed Issue Note No. (27 1995)

**Temporary storage**

Seeds can be stored for 6 months at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are maintained in sealed polyethylene bag and free of insects. However, it is recommended to sow the seeds as soon as possible after receipt.

**Treatment before sowing**

The seed does not need any pre-treatment.

**Sowing**

There are two methods:

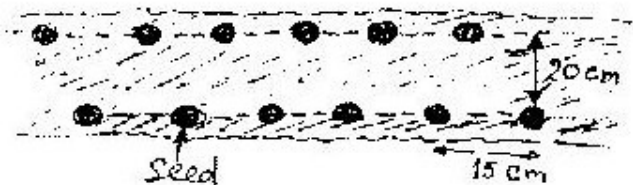
(i) Sowing directly into polyethylene pots. One or two seeds (depending on viability) should be placed at the centre of the pot and covered with the potting soil or sand to a depth of about 1 cm.

(ii) A fence line should be ploughed and the soil levelled out by using a hoe to form a ridge. The size of the ridge may be 30 cm in width and the length depends on personal requirements. For forming alive fence, seeds should be sown at a spacing of 15 cm apart along two lines on the ridge. The distance between the two lines should be approx. 20 cm (see drawing). One kg of seeds is enough to form 350 m of live fence.

**Germination**

The germination reaches 60% after 7 days and 90% after 20 days from sowing.

One kg contains 6,500 seeds and may produce 5,000 seedlings.



Seed spacing in forming a live fence of *Pithecelobium dulce*

**Tanzania Tree Seed Agency  
S.L.P. 373, Morogoro – Tanzania**

**Tel: 023 260 3192/3903**

**Fax: 023 260 3275**

**E-mail: [ttsa@morogoro.net](mailto:ttsa@morogoro.net)**