

## TANZANIA TREE SEED AGENCY



### HANDLING SEED OF *SENNA SPECTABILIS* (CASSIA)

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#### Temporary storage

Seeds can be stored for several years at room temperature without significant loss of viability, if they are well dried and packed in polyethylene bag or any airtight container. 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. 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 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give a sowing density of 10,000 seeds per m<sup>2</sup> of seed bed. This is approximately 300 grams of seed per m<sup>2</sup> of seedbed. Seeds should be covered with sand to a depth of 0.5 cm.

#### Germination

Germination reaches 30% after 7 days and 90% after 14 days.

One kg contains 32,000 seeds and may produce 28,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 20,000 seedlings per kg of seed will be produced. Transplanting into pots can take place when the cotyledons have just appeared on the surface of the seedbed.

**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)**