



**HANDLING SEED OF *SWARTIZIA MADAGASCARIENSIS*  
(SNAKE BEAN TREE)**

Seed Issue Note No. (78) 1997

**Temporary storage**

Seeds can be stored for 2 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 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.

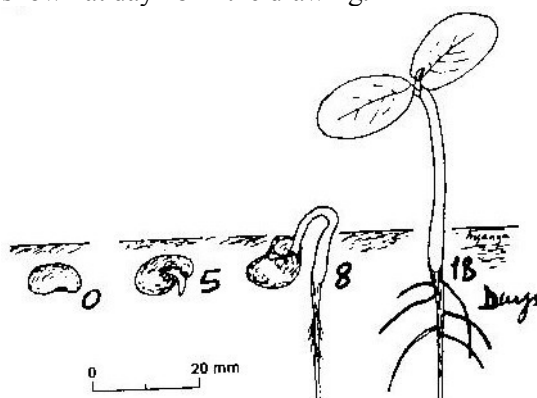
**Sowing**

A space about 1 cm should be left between the seeds. This will give sowing density of 10,000 seeds per m<sup>2</sup> of seed bed corresponding to approx 1 kg of seeds per m<sup>2</sup> of seed bed. Seeds should be covered with 0.5 cm of sand.

**Germination**

At the 5th day after sowing the root comes out (See drawing). The germination reaches 60% after 20 days and 80% after 25 days.

One kg contains 9,500 seeds and may produce 7,000 seedlings under ideal conditions. However, in many cases only 5,000 seedlings per kg will be obtained. Transplanting into pots can take place when the seedling has appearance shown at day 18 in the drawing.



Germination stages in seed of *Swartzia madagascariensis*

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