



HANDLING SEED OF *TECTONA GRANDIS* (TEAK)

Seed Issue Note No. (3) 1995

Temporary storage

Properly dried fruits "seeds" can be stored at room temperature for 2 - 4 years without significantly losing viability.

Treatment before sowing

1. Bulk quantities of seeds are packed in sacks and soaked in running streams for 72 hrs (3 days). Small quantities of seeds are soaked in cold water contained in plastic drums for the same period as for bulk quantities but the water has to be changed after every 12 hrs. After soaking in either way, the seeds have to be dried in the sun for one day.
2. The second method is alternate soaking of the seeds in running water and drying in the sun for 2 days over a period of 2 weeks.

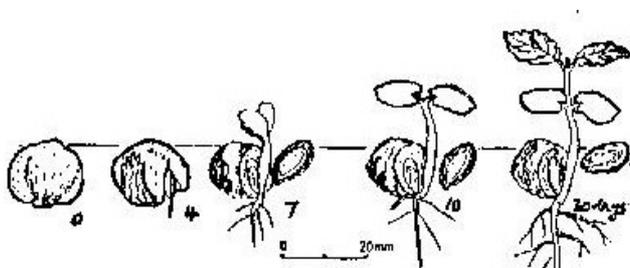
Sowing

Seeds are placed on the surface of the seedbed and pressed down by fingers or piece of flat board until the seed surface is at the same level as the seedbed. The sowing rate is about 2 litres (0.75 kg) of seeds per m² of seed bed (about 600 seeds per m²). The seedbed should be watered to supply enough moisture but should not be shaded as Teak is a light demander.

Germination

Germination is generally poor and sporadic. At 4 days after sowing the root comes out (see drawing). The germination reaches 30% after 7 days and 65% after 35 days from sowing.

During evaluation fruit is counted as a single seed even if it may produce more than one seedling. Lifting and stumping of the seedlings from the nursery beds is conducted in two consecutive periods - the first at 12 months and the second at 18 months after sowing.



Stages in the Germination of *Tectona grandis* seed

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